

THOMAS K. CREE
A Memorial



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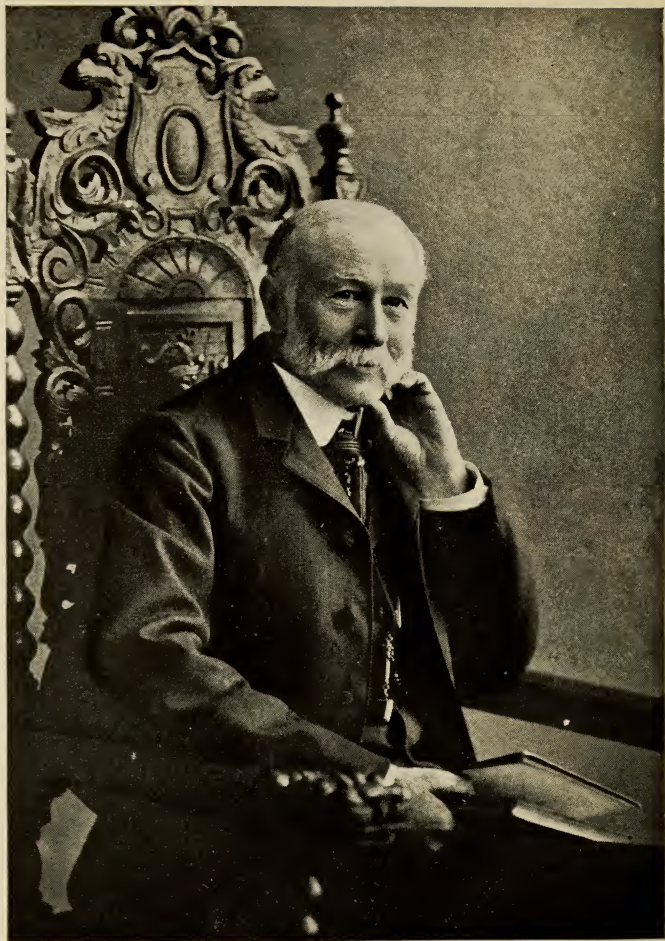
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THOMAS KIRBY CREE
A MEMORIAL



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Thomas K. Cree

1905

THOMAS KIRBY CREE

A MEMORIAL

EDITED BY

MAJOR JOHN K. CREE, U. S. A., RETIRED

AND

H. S. NINDE,

*International Committee Young Men's
Christian Associations*

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UPB

INTRODUCTION

WHAT an all-round success Mr. Cree was! Made money? Yes, he made money. He made a competency by the time he was thirty-three years old, which is more than ninety per cent of our business men do. He made it honestly, too, so that it never plagued him afterwards. No dirty deals, no shady bargains, no questionable property. "He never could be put to blush, whatever record leaped to light." It was clean money because it was made by a clean man in clean ways. Rest assured, he gave one hundred and ten per cent of value for every dollar. It is nothing new for a true Christian to carry his religion into business.

Had he power? He had. In the complex and strenuous life of great cities—Philadelphia, San Francisco, Paris—in the affairs of his own country, of Canada, of France, and of practically every other nation on earth, he had an influence which helped to change the course of history. Suppose he had not done what he did in their vital crises for the Associations of those great cities? Suppose he had not done what he did by personal as well as platform appeals to individuals, and most of all, perhaps, by his wonderful correspondence? Long before

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we heard so much about social salvation he, like every other true Christian of all times, was bringing it to pass in the only possible way, that is, through particular persons. Bringing his trained business efficiency into the greatest business of all, he made the spiritual fortunes of individuals, and so of cities and states and nations. His energy, shrewdness, patience and tactfulness brought great results. Back of the power he had with men was the Eternal strength; as he himself eagerly said, strength that was made perfect in his weakness. He grew steadily. His vision broadened to take in the world. In a practical business man's way he had connected up his personal machinery with the great power belt, and he never allowed himself to slip from it. Neither light nor heat ever failed. You never saw his car standing dark and still on the track.

And friends? Well, does not every man who has money and power have friends? Yes, he had friends, and no man had more or better friends. They were not drawn by the desire to get his money, although he gave freely to those who had the claim of blood or the claim of need. His model will, with its provisions for first his relatives, and in due proportion for one after another of the great means of service to God and man, to which he had given his life,

shows how this master of his money used it, and never allowed it to master him. But those friends who so valued his meetings, his letters, his conversations because they were full of life and quickened their spirits, had come to him because of his power. Everywhere there are men waiting consciously or unconsciously to be touched by such power that their lives may not be futile or weary. A bachelor, like McBurney, he had the great heart of the All-father himself for all men and boys. He was like the "Friend that sticketh closer than a brother," as thousands would tell you. He could not help having friends, because he showed himself friendly.

What about his reputation? What did men who knew him say of him behind his back and to one another? President Eliot has well said that one of the least considered but most durable and satisfying joys of life is to know that you have the respect and regard of those who know you best. Certainly Mr. Cree had that joy. He was held in honor by thousands and thousands of men. Even though Jesus quoted it, the old proverb is not always true, and there are prophets who are honored in their own country. Chambersburg, his own city, rightly held Mr. Cree as one of its foremost citizens in all honor and affection, and

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rejoiced that he finally returned to give to it and his loved ones there, the riches of his experience in his latter days. This is typical of the view of those who worked with him everywhere. Men whose names are known the world round, and men whose names were forgotten by every one save Mr. Cree, and all kinds in between, looked to him as one of "God Almighty's gentlemen." Of course, his popular reputation was spotless. How easy it would have been to answer the stock legal question, "What is his reputation for truth and veracity?" or, in the older phrase, "What is the speech of the people about him?" He not only wore the white flower of a blameless life, but all men knew and said that he had kept the vows of "a very perfect gentle knight."

Mr. Rhodes, who is writing one of the best histories of the United States, drew out of the firm of M. A. Hanna & Company while still a young man, having made money enough, so he thought, although his partners made much more later, because he wanted to devote his life to literature and thus to the service of the world. This is so rare an event that it has been talked about with wonder by business men everywhere. Perhaps even Association men, who are supposed to see spiritual values with less of material mist before their eyes than

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other men, are still wondering why Mr. Cree did the same thing, only on a higher plane of service. Why did he not go on to become a millionaire like his friend, William Thaw, with whom he was then associated, and who would have helped him to make a great fortune, or why did he not take other business chances which came to him later? There are Association men who do not care so much for money, especially now that it is not enough of itself to bring honor to a man and the millionaire must justify his fortune by a spiritual use of it, or by some kind of personal service; but they may ask why he did not continue in public life, as he might have done at Washington after his experience as secretary to the Board of Indian Commissioners, and so gradually have won fame which comes to the few who by governmental service of the people make their names known throughout the land. These are honorable careers. Yes, they are. But they do not always end in success, even when the prize is grasped. All Pittsburgh millionaires are not like William Thaw. Moreover, one has only to hear or to read the words of men who have been President of the United States to verify the words of Cardinal Woolsey as reported by Shakespeare. Ambition ends in disappointment when it runs in that road. It is some-

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times bitter and sometimes agonizing, and sometimes full of terrible remorse.

Let me say to any young man who reads this that after a somewhat intimate knowledge of the lives of successful men in our country and time, I can certify that Mr. Cree chose the better part. I do not decry the other parts. I know that fine men have lived fine lives with such parts. I know millionaires and Presidents who have served God and man as well as Association secretaries. But it is more difficult and more dangerous, and more uncertain to try the roads which are not primarily intended for such service. There is a more excellent way. That way Mr. Cree, at the age when the Master, whom he made his example, poured out his life on the cross, deliberately took with coolness, carefulness, and a businesslike and efficient view of things characteristic of such a man.

Sentiment and emotion had their proper place with him as they do with millionaires and Presidents of the United States and every other man who is not a monster, but so had sagacity and calculation. He had respect to the recompense of reward; that is, he carefully weighed the different investments and chose the best one with precisely the same kind of practical wisdom that selects a bond or a stock.

He never regretted his choice. Why should

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he? He got his interest regularly. From time to time he got what might be called extra dividends, sometimes one hundred per cent and even one thousand per cent. It paid. It paid well. It paid exceedingly well. It justified his choice. It showed that he was a wise business man. Moreover, there was none of what is called "luck" about it. Every successful financier will, when he is speaking in the frankness of private conversation, tell you that the element of "luck," or something that was not in his calculations, of peculiar opportunities or conjunctions of circumstances, or the result of blind guesswork, has had a great deal to do with his success. But Mr. Cree could have predicted from the beginning his success. Of course, not in details. Of course, he had unexpected opportunities, unexpected returns, but there was no element of chance in it. He had geared into the Eternal purpose of the universe. He was in the Gulf Stream that bore him forward. He literally could not fail. His investment was guaranteed by One who knows no bankruptcy; One who is able to do more than anybody can ask or even think; yes, exceedingly more.

HENRY B. F. MACFARLAND.

Washington, D. C.

(*Association Men*, February, 1913)

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I. ANCESTRY AND EARLY INFLUENCES

The Scotch-Irish invasion of Pennsylvania—The Cree forbears settle in Chester County—Remove to Franklin and Huntingdon—A unique diary—Walkers and Elliotts in the American Revolution—A poet schoolmaster—Queen Street house—John Cree—Jemima Kirby—Mother's letter.

ABOUT the years 1735-1738 there was a considerable exodus of Irish and Scotch-Irish families from Ulster, Ireland, to the new territories that the Penns were opening up in North America. This was due in part to the oppression of the Presbyterians by the government, but more especially to the fact that many of their leases were expiring, and the landlords were demanding higher renewal rates than the tenants were able to pay. In September, 1736, alone, one thousand families sailed from Belfast. Among those who came over in 1737 were the Crees, the Walkers and the Elliotts, who all settled in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

In the year 1736, by treaty with the Indians, the country west of the Susquehanna was opened up for settlement and for several reasons was rapidly occupied. First, the character of the territory was very inviting—its

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beauty and fertility, its springs and streams; also, on account of a dispute with Maryland in regard to the boundary line, the Penns were disposed to issue special licenses and in other ways encourage settlement along the border. Most of the settlers in Chester, Berks, York, and other counties west of the Susquehanna, were Quakers, Mennonites and certain German and other sects, all non-resistants. The "Dutch" and the "Irish" could not get along peaceably together, so Penn's agents were instructed to send the German immigrants to York County and the Scotch-Irish ("That pugnacious and impractical race," as one of the early governors called them) to the country east of the river; well did the Penns know that the presence of these sturdy men, with their attachment to Protestant modes of thought and government, would put forever at rest all fears as to the adherents of Catholic Maryland disturbing their rights along the southern boundary. However, this difficulty was amicably settled in 1767, by the laying out of what has since been known as "Mason and Dixon's Line."

In 1761, the Crees, the Walkers and the Elliotts removed from Chester County. Captain Alexander Walker and Francis Elliott settled in Path Valley, Franklin County;

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David Cree settled seven miles away in Aughwick Valley, Huntingdon County. Of the life of these early pioneers of the wilderness but little is known; it is safe to presume that it was much the same as others of that period. The country was still filled with Indians, who roamed here and there, generally peaceable, but not always so. Chambersburg, the nearest town, was not laid out till 1764. Wild animals were abundant, and the country although fertile was covered with timber; much of the land was on limestone foundation and the rocky nature of the ground made cultivation difficult. It is almost impossible to realize the struggles of these hardy settlers in extracting a living from nature under the conditions which surrounded them. And yet they succeeded and reared large families.

In the diary of the Rev. Philip V. Fulton, who passed through this country in 1775, may be found the following:

June 22. Rode north into Path Valley. Stopped at one Elliott's (Francis). He keeps a genteel house with good accommodations. I saw a young woman, a daughter of his, who had never been over the South Mountain, as elegant in her manner and as neat in her dress as most in the city.

June 23. Passed by the Narrows into Tuscarora Valley. On the way all day, usually a small path and

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covered with sharp stones. Spent the night at James Gray's.

June 24. Before breakfast came a Scotch matron with her work and spindle, twisting away at the flax. I rode on after breakfast to Mr. Samuel Lyon's twelve miles, yet in Tuscarora. He lives neat, has glass windows and apparently a good farm. Then rode to the Juniata, stopped at John Harris, Esq's. He lives elegantly. In the parlor where I am sitting are three windows each with twenty-four lights of glass.

It is extremely probable that the young woman referred to, the daughter of Francis Elliott, was the same who married David Walker and became the great-grandmother of Thomas K. Cree. It is of interest to note that the writer speaks of certain settlers using glass in their windows, as though it were unusual at that time so far from "the city."

Alexander Walker had five sons—John, Robert, Samuel, James and David. He died in 1775. In 1777, during the Revolutionary War, the First Battalion of Cumberland County militia was formed and placed under the command of Colonel James Dunlap. One of the three companies of this battalion was raised in what is now Franklin County and was commanded by Captain Noah Abraham of Path Valley; the first lieutenant of this

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company was Archibald Elliott, and the second lieutenant was Samuel Walker. Robert Walker was a private in the same company. The other Walker brothers also served various terms of enlistment. John Walker married a Miss McGuire, and David Walker married Francis Elliott's daughter, settling in Aughwick Valley about a mile from David Cree. In the family of David Cree were eleven children, born from 1774 to 1794. The second of these was James, born September 20, 1776. March 1, 1803, James Cree married Elizabeth Walker, the daughter of David Walker, born November 18, 1774. James and Elizabeth Walker Cree had eight children, the second of whom, John Elliott Cree, was born July 16, 1805, married June 24, 1830, Jemima Kirby. John and Jemima Kirby Cree had five children, Thomas Kirby Cree being the third.

The following letter from Thomas to his brother James announces the death of their grandfather, James Cree, and contains a tribute to his memory:

Pittsburgh, Pa., February 12, 1858.

Dear Bro. Jim:

I have just received the enclosed dispatch, containing the melancholy intelligence of Grandfather's

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death. When I last saw him he told me that it was hardly likely we would ever meet again. Last summer, when I had expected to go home, I thought that his surmises would not prove correct. Had I then known what I now know, I would have gone, let the consequences have been what they might. I never knew how much I loved him till he was lost to us.

When I was there since he has been blind, we were much together, and I think he had come to be much attached to me. But he has gone now, and I sincerely hope we may both be as fitted to meet our final Judge as he—for he was one of the righteous men of the earth.

Your brother,

TOM.

James Cree died February 11, 1858, near Burnt Cabins, Huntingdon County, Pa., after a few days' illness, aged eighty-one years. His wife Elizabeth, aged eighty-three, had strength sufficient only to prepare the clothing for his burial, and a few days later followed her husband. Miss Polly Walker, her sister, had died January 22, and another sister, Susan Walker, within a few days of that date. It is very unusual that four persons so closely related and all over eighty years of age, should without any special disease die within about two weeks of one another.

Among the Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who

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came to America between 1760 and 1765 were William Withney and Nancy Bryan, who had been married in Ireland, and who settled about five miles west of Chambersburg on the Warm Spring Road. About him we know very little, but anyone visiting the old farm and realizing the beauty of the location, with the extended views of mountain and valley, will have no fault to find with his taste. In this beautiful spot he lived and died. Captain Adam Poe, one of his executors, said his only epitaph need be—"Here rests an honest man." Their children were, Arthur, who married Mary Wise and lived in Hagerstown; Jean, who married Thomas Kirby; Elizabeth, who married John Kennan and moved to Ohio; Agnes, who married William Armstrong, and John, who died a bachelor.

The Kirby family came from Wales, and originally settled in Virginia. Thomas Kirby, who was born there in 1757, came to Pennsylvania about 1778. He was by occupation a schoolmaster, and was evidently of a sentimental turn, since there are still extant specimens of poetry of his composition. Among these are two "Love Songs" written at the Back Creek schoolhouse, June 20 and August 26, 1780. Two sisters followed him to Chambersburg, but after a few years returned to

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Virginia. In 1784 he married Jean Withney and moved to Hagerstown; three children were born to them in Maryland, but they all died young and were buried at Brown's Mills, where he taught school for a time. Soon afterwards he returned to Chambersburg and resumed his profession of teaching in a building on Queen Street, where was located afterwards the home of John and Jemima Cree, and where Thomas K. Cree was born. Thomas Kirby was also a conveyancer and surveyor. He was a great reader and had the best library then in Chambersburg. He died in the Queen Street house in 1815; his wife Jean continued to reside there for twenty years, dying in 1835. Both are buried in the graveyard of the Falling Spring church at Chambersburg.

Jemima Kirby was born in the Queen Street house in November, 1800. She was married June 24, 1830, to John E. Cree. For some reason he was led to drop the "E" and was known simply as John Cree. With the exception of a short time spent in Pittsburgh, after their home was burned by Confederate cavalry in 1863, Jemima Cree lived her whole life in the Queen Street house (or the one which replaced it in the same location), where she was born and where she died, March 24, 1892. John Cree died there February 21, 1890.

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John Cree was a skilful cabinetmaker and for many years conducted a furniture factory on West Queen Street, where much of the furniture of the Chambersburg of that period was made. He never used tobacco, and was naturally desirous that his sons should not do so. One day on coming around the corner of the barn he found Thomas and three boys of the neighborhood puffing in turn from the stub of a cigar that they had picked up somewhere. He appeared to be very much pleased at the sight, saying: "Why how nice it is that you boys are large enough to smoke! That is very nice indeed! But I am afraid that is not a very good cigar you have there; I will give you some money, and you can go down to the cigar store on the corner and get each of you a cigar for himself." So he gave them five cents with which to buy five cigars; the quality may be guessed by the price. The boys each bought a cigar and smoked it, or as much of it as he could, and they were cured for the time being of all desire to smoke.

Of his character much might be written. Quiet, patient and of the most gentle disposition, he was the friend of everyone. It is doubtful whether he ever had an enemy. His consistent Christian life was an object lesson for the entire community. For many years he

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was an elder in the Falling Spring Presbyterian Church and the superintendent of the Sunday school—later he was an elder in the Central Church. His devotion to his church was without measure and no sacrifice was too great, no labor too arduous in her service. Always in his place when possible, even in his later years when he was too deaf to hear anything of the service; always willing to perform any duty assigned him, he unconsciously set an example worthy of emulation. “Apparently the mildest of men, he possessed a strong will, and though meekness was characteristic of him he was not without spirit. Kindness and honesty were his in a marked degree, but of all his virtues humility was preëminent. Humbly and quietly he walked through life, daily exemplifying the beauty of the faith which was his solace and strong support. Friend and neighbor testify to his integrity, the sick and suffering cherish the remembrance of his helpfulness. Children and grandchildren revere his memory. Like one of old, he walked with God, and he is not, for God took him.” Such was the father of Thomas K. Cree.

Jemima Kirby had three sisters, Mrs. William S. Davis, Mrs. Silas Harry, Mrs. William Gilmore, and a brother, James R.

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Kirby. Of these, Thomas K. Davis, in his book, "The Davis Family," says: "The four sisters and their brother remained in Chambersburg. All reared families, and what jolly times we cousins had growing up together! The Kirby sisters were all clever, intelligent and witty, amiable and hospitable, with plenty of Scotch-Irish humor, full of fun and laughter, making their homes attractive centers of good fellowship—and withal good Christian women, devoted to their Lord and Master and their church."

Jemima Kirby was a remarkable woman. Given a fair education in the private schools of the town, she supplemented it by being all her life a reader of good books. Her mind was early stored among other things with David's Psalms and Scott's poems, from both of which she could recite at length when over ninety years of age. Her powers of description were wonderful, and it is to be regretted that she did not write for publication. In later years her vivid memory made the recital of the events of her life most fascinating, covering as it did nearly an entire century. Her descriptions of the people she had known, and of the life of her home town were full of interest to her children, her grandchildren and her many friends.

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Always rather delicate in health, her bright mind, strong will, fearless spirit, loving disposition, quick wit and deep religious feeling made her a unique personality, a power in the circle in which she moved and of the town in which her life was spent.

She was a born letter writer, and the letters which have been preserved are full of interest, especially those called her "war letters," written between 1860 and 1865. No better account has been given of those exciting times in the Cumberland Valley than may be found in them. Those written to her son James after he went to Pittsburgh in 1849, show the beauty and force of her character, and the lovely life of the Chambersburg home. One of these letters is here given as showing the influence which she endeavored to exert over her sons when separated from them. It may well be assumed that she wrote similar letters to her son Thomas, although it is not known that any of them have been preserved. This letter was probably written in January, 1849:

Sabbath evening, about $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7.

My dear James:

You will think on opening this letter: "What, Mother writing on the Sabbath!" Let me account

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for it. I am sitting here alone. Father and Jane are at church, and the children gone to bed. It was too early for Thomas, but he was not well. I felt low spirited without any particular cause for it, and thought I would commence a letter to you to cheer me up, as when I am writing I almost fancy I am talking to you. I believe that if there is any one time when we miss you more than another it is in the twilight of a Sabbath evening, when we gather round the stove and your place is vacant; we often try to sing as we did when you were here, but we soon miss our leader, and have to stop. Jane E. does not sing as well or as much as she did, owing to a lump she has in her throat. Kirb. is learning, but his voice is still rather loud and wild.

I am pleased with your account of spending your Sabbaths, but hope that you will not forget that we are enjoined to attend the private as well as public exercises of the day. Always try to have time to think over what you hear, and some time to devote to reading the Bible and other good books. I think there is no danger of your reading improper works, as, although you are away from us, I know, or at least hope, that you will not forget the instruction you received on that subject. There are few things that have more to do in the formation of a young man's character than his reading. Shun novels as well as other works that would seem more dangerous. They have been the ruin of many a young man, as well as females (correct that grammar). Beside their bad effect on the moral character of youth, they

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destroy a taste for all useful as well as religious reading. By useful I mean history, etc. Shun them, therefore, next to drinking and bad company. This advice may be useless to you, but if you should be led into temptation, think of it.

(Monday morning) Do you intend attending Mr. Brown's church regularly? If so, I think it a good choice, as he is very highly spoken of, and it is much more pleasant, I think, than going over to Allegheny.

I wrote the first page of this, as you will see, last night, and tho' I did not intend writing any news, yet I had to stop, as a "still small voice" would say, "Do not today what can be done tomorrow." I said I felt low spirited; I think the term was wrong, as I only felt lonely. I am so old-fashioned that I look back almost with regret to the "days of old lang syne," when the evenings were spent in social converse, reading, catechizing, etc., around the fireside of home; and I know that when families are scattered far and wide, the parents sleeping in the dust, and the children perhaps far apart, such evenings would be a "green spot" to look back to, and a link to bind their affections together. But things must change, and in towns and cities, where there are so many sinks of vice open on the Sabbath, there must be night preaching to try to counteract their influence; and of course when there is preaching, it is our duty to attend.

I remain, as ever, your affectionate mother

J. K. CREE.

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Mrs. Cree died at ninety-two years of age, outliving her husband and all of her children but James and Thomas. The destruction of the family home and furniture, in fact their entire possessions, by the burning of Chambersburg in 1864, was a great loss. For many years there was some prospect that the national government might reimburse them, but it was never done.

NOTE. The children of David Cree were: Samuel, born February 14, 1774; James, born September 20, 1776; John, born September 30, 1778; Jane, born April 5, 1780; Mary, born May 2, 1782; Ann, born June 8, 1784; Hannah, born May 6, 1786; Jonathan and David, twins, born October 4, 1788; Robert, born January 1, 1790; Alexander, born October 20, 1794.

James Cree died February 11, 1858, and wife Elizabeth eight days later, February 19. Their children were as follows: David, born January 2, 1804; married September 10, 1824, to Debora Dickson; died August 8, 1890. John Elliott, born July 19, 1805; married June 24, 1830, to Jemima Kirby; died February 21, 1890. James, born May 20, 1807; married November 22, 1835, to Eliza Walker; died May 22, 1882. Eliza, born June 9, 1809; married May 10, 1831, to Brice Blair; died April 12, 1876. Walker, born August 20, 1811; married November 26, 1835, to Ellen Neff; died December 14, 1900. Jonathan, born June 17, 1814; married December 4, 1845, to Rhoda J. Elliott. Anna, born April 20, 1816; married January 1, 1846, to John M. Walker; died January 8, 1884. Mary, born December 27, 1818; died August 17, 1820.

The children of John and Jemima Cree were: James Walker Cree, born in 1831; married in 1858, Cornelia E. Dunham; died in 1906. Jane Elizabeth Cree, born in 1834; married in

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1861, William S. Everett; died in 1864. Thomas Kirby Cree, born August 27, 1836; died December 3, 1912. Mary Cree, born in 1841; married Jere B. Shenafield; died in 1884. Ellen Cree, born in 1845; died in 1850.



THOMAS K. CREE JAMES W. CREE
JOHN CREE JEMIMA CREE MARY CREE SHENAFIELD

1874

II. BOYHOOD AND SCHOOL DAYS

Thomas K. Cree born—Early recollections—“Hay Scales Academy”—The boy begins business—Lancaster high school—A religious incident—Boy letters—Deciding on a vocation—Clerking in Pittsburgh.

THOMAS KIRBY CREE, the third child of John and Jemima Kirby Cree, was born in the old family homestead, in Queen Street, Chambersburg. It is a coincidence worth noting that his elder brother James was born on the same day of the same month five years before. Of his early life but little can be said beyond that given in an unfinished memorandum written by himself some time before his death; it is thought that this should be given in his own words:

“The writer hereof was born in Chambersburg, Pa., August 27, 1836. This important incident in his life, from personal recollections, must be passed over with its simple record. The first event of interest enough to leave an impression on his mind is a very clear remembrance of a certain parade and torchlight procession during the Harrison campaign in '40, when he was at the tender age of four years. He remembers having been held in his

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father's arms, on the doorstep of the old Queen Street home, the family generally being there, and watching the procession passing along Main Street. The next day, with a number of other little boys of about the same age, he went to the back yard of Fisher's Hotel, at Main and Queen streets, and saw a canvas covered ball, some twenty feet high, which had been rolled in front of the procession the previous evening, giving point to the then popular song, 'We will keep the ball rolling.'

"Another very vivid impression made in those early days was his first day in Sunday school. He was not over four or five years of age. The school was held in a building on King Street, still standing. He remembers just where he sat, the teacher and the little library book that was given him, and one of the illustrations in it is still impressed on his mind. This shows how early impressions that are lasting may be made on the minds of children.

"He continued in the same Sunday school, that of the Falling Spring church, which was soon afterwards moved to the then new lecture room near the old church, until he left Chambersburg, at the age of about seventeen. He remembers all of his teachers very pleasantly, and many of the lessons learned; but the mistake of all of them, and there were but three,

Boyhood and School Days

was in not definitely urging on him, while a boy, the acceptance of Jesus Christ as a personal Saviour.

“My father was a leading member of the Falling Spring church, and for many years one of the elders of it. My mother was a member of the old ‘Seceder’ church, afterwards the United Presbyterian, but the two were so nearly allied that we scarcely knew the difference. I was baptized by Dr. Gracey of the latter church, and as children we usually attended both churches. When a very small boy I went to church regularly, and remember that when the pew was well filled, or when I got tired, with my short legs dangling from the seat, I would sit on the footstool. In those young days, when the whole service was above my comprehension, I contracted the habit, as many children do, of starting my mind off on lines of thought which often ran through the entire sermon—a habit that I have found quite difficult to break up in my later life, and one that troubles many people all their days, showing the tenacity of habits acquired in childhood.

“My father, John Cree, was a son of James Cree of Aughwick Valley, and my grandmother was a daughter of James Walker. They were godly persons. My grandfather was an elder and leader in the Presbyterian church, and

though plain they were intelligent country people. My grandmother all her life had the habit of going alone to her room morning, noon and night for meditation on God's word and prayer. My great-grandfather was one of the first farmers in his neighborhood to discontinue the supplying of whisky *ad libitum* to harvest hands, and instead paid them an advance of twelve and a half cents per day, quite a generous amount at that time. I often visited my grandparents when a boy, and as such did more or less work suited to a boy of my age—town instead of country bred. Possibly quite a little of it was in riding the horses to and from the fields, riding on the hay wagon, etc.; but as I got older I did some real work. One summer my earnings amounted to \$4, which was more to me at that day than \$400 would have been in later life. For a number of years before his death my grandfather was blind, and I read to him more or less daily. He had quite a good many books, but I often read, possibly at his suggestion, Baxter's 'Four Fold State,' 'Call to the Unconverted,' Allien's 'Alarm,' Baxter's 'Saint's Rest,' and Alexander's 'Evidences of Christianity.' However, I paid no attention personally to the subject-matter, so they did not impress me favorably or otherwise.

Boyhood and School Days

“My father came to Chambersburg about 1825, and about 1830 he married Miss Jemima Kirby. He engaged in a prosperous business, but soon after, contrary to my mother’s advice, he endorsed a note for two of my uncles, one on each side of the family, and both failed; it seriously hampered him to make good these losses. For more than fifty years he was an elder in the Presbyterian church. For many years he was one of the elders in the Falling Spring church, and during one pastorate serious trouble in the congregation left its burden entirely on him. For more than twenty-five years he was superintendent of the Sunday school. He entered into rest after an honorable and useful life, at the age of eighty-five.

“My mother was a woman of considerable intellectual acquirements, and of rare good sense. She survived my father two years and followed him at the age of ninety-two. Ours was a delightful Christian home and I look back with much pleasure to my home life. Sunday was the pleasantest day of the week. We never went out except to go to church, and we often went morning and afternoon and to Sunday school, but we always had pleasant things for Sunday. The servant was always given a day off, and my sisters usually prepared

the dinner or early supper, and something special was always arranged for it on Saturday. In the evening we had music, and the day never seemed long or irksome.

“My youthful school days began with a small school conducted by a Mr. Whistler, a few doors from my home. Aunt Davis called it the ‘Hay Scales Academy,’ because it was situated close by the hay scales, a prominent point in the neighborhood. Although I was not over four or five years old when I began attending it I remember distinctly the children in the school, the games played and many trivial incidents connected with the period. From it I went to the academy, the junior department of which was taught by my uncle, James Ross Kirby, who was quite a prominent teacher in his day. I remained in the school until I was transferred to the higher department, which was under the supervision of my cousin, W. V. Davis, who was one of the best teachers the academy ever had. Boys were fitted for college, and the languages and higher mathematics were taught. I remained here for several years.

“My first acquaintance with business was in selling apples, plums, paper birds and boats, etc., under the firm name of Cree & Carlisle. Father painted us a sign, and while our medium

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of exchange was pins, our stock in trade cost us nothing. My next experience was as clerk and general utility boy in the bookstore of my cousin, Robert S. Davis. I opened and closed the store, swept out, made the fire and, as I look back upon it, I seem to have been left in charge of the business most of the time. I do not remember that we did much business, but the same seems to have been the case with most mercantile establishments in the town—they seemed generally to have been left in charge of boys or young men, who did not seem to have much business to attend to. My pay was fifty cents per week or per month, most probably the former, but at that time either would have seemed quite a good salary, and I can remember reckoning how much it would amount to in a year, and in ten years; and it amounted to quite a large sum as my ideas of money were then gauged. At that time in Chambersburg a man who had \$10,000 clear was accounted well off, and I question whether anyone there was worth in excess of \$50,000. As I looked forward to the future, \$10,000 promised all that one could wish for. People generally lived in a modest way, and an occasional cent was all that children expected to have as their own.

“A little later I was employed for some

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months by my cousin, John Armstrong, who was settling up the business of Colonel McGeehan, who had failed in the dry goods business. Here we did quite a deal of trade, and I had a salary of \$100 per year, which was for the times quite generous. In the meantime I returned to the academy, which had passed into the care of Dr. Gracey, and I remained there until I went to the Lancaster high school, of which my cousin, W. V. Davis, had become principal. My cousin Will Senseny went with me, and the intention was that from it on graduation we were to study medicine with his father, Dr. A. H. Senseny, who was the most prominent physician in Chambersburg at that time. I entered the junior year in the high school and studied hard to keep up with my class. We seldom finished our lessons before twelve o'clock at night, and were at them again before breakfast in the morning. I question if many high school boys then or now study as hard. Friday was review day, and it gave us time to prepare our Monday lessons, leaving Saturday free for writing letters home and for a real holiday. We boarded with Cousin Vanlear Davis, the principal of the school. During the winter we went out into society quite a good deal, but paid for it by studying immediately after the close of

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school, and again for a couple of hours after our return from parties. We had many pleasant friends in school and social life. The result of our hard study was the giving way of the health of each of us, and towards the close of the first year I decided not to return to school, to give up the study of medicine, and to go to Pittsburgh as clerk in a store.

“Through my brother, who was then employed in Pittsburgh, I secured a position in the store of Frank Van Gorder at five dollars per week. My cousin Will Senseny returned to the high school, studied medicine with his father, and after graduating at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, returned home where within a few weeks he died. Had I gone through with him I could have taken the place destined for him in partnership with his father, and at once started off as a young physician in a prosperous community and with a good practice.

“Looking back on these school days, I realize the fact that teaching was by no means as well done or as thorough as it is supposed to be now, and yet the studious came out good scholars, while the dull and idle learned little, as is usually the case now. I remember one teacher who did not care whether the boys under him learned or not. The parts of my

education that I ought to have gotten from him I had to pick up with much trouble in later years.

“I remember with much satisfaction the ministers of both the Falling Spring and the old Seceder or United Presbyterian churches; of the latter, Dr. Gracey, by whom I was baptized, I was a warm friend during his life. Dr. Carnahan I remember as a good preacher, and Dr. Warner was a friend of the family, a good man, and an able preacher. In the Falling Spring church, Dr. McKinley is the first that I remember, and I think he was the pastor during most of my boyhood. Dr. Clarke succeeded him, and I believe Dr. Nichols came in after I had left Chambersburg. When a boy of twelve or fourteen years of age special meetings were held in the church, only one of which I remember. It was a week day afternoon in the fall of the year, and I was impressed with the service. An invitation was given to those who wished conversation to remain after the service. Ed Wallace sat beside me. I remember the pew in which we sat. He remained, and I left the church. I stopped on the sidewalk in front of the old church—I remember well the spot—and for a few moments considered whether I should go back into the church or not. Miss Eva Harper and her sister

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passed, and she surmising my thoughts said, 'You had better go back.' But I did not, and the impression at once passed away, and the decision as to a Christian life for the time being had been adversely made.

"For years after I have no recollection of any serious concern on the subject. About ten years later, after a somewhat fast life in Pittsburgh, I was called home by the illness of my sister Jane. She was a lovely Christian woman. I found her on her deathbed. She talked with me a little in regard to my personal life. She had visited in Pittsburgh, and on a Thanksgiving Day when the family were gathered for dinner, the last chance we were to have of sitting down to the table together, I had been absent owing to a night of dissipation incident to the holiday. How much she or the family knew of my life I do not know, but her dying words impressed me, and with death in the house I once again seriously looked at the future; but again the decision made was an adverse one, and for two years more the subject was dropped with me."

It is much to be regretted that Mr. Cree did not continue further his autobiographical writing, for of necessity there are large gaps in the history of his life which it is impossible now to fill up. For example, it would be interesting to

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know more in regard to his conversion, that most important act of his entire life. It is known that it occurred at the special services held during the week of prayer in the Third Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, in the winter of 1866-1867. It was at one of these meetings that he accepted Christ as his Saviour, and turned from the gay life he had been leading to a life of Christian service. When he had made his own decision, he immediately began most successfully to persuade others to accept Christ, and from that time until his death he was an untiring worker for the Master.

The following letter found among his effects is of interest, as it concerns probably the first of the many church offices which he held:

Pittsburgh, March 4, 1869.

Thos. K. Cree, Esq.

Dear Sir:

At a meeting of the Members of the Third Presbyterian Church held in their chapel, on the evening of Wednesday the 17th ult. you were elected to fill the office of a Deacon of that Church for the period of three years from the second day of February, 1869.

Yours respectfully,

WM. B. EDWARDS,

Secty.

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Although Mr. Cree's memorandum covers but a short portion of his life, we are fortunate in having his own evidence to cover other parts of it in the shape of letters which have been preserved. Many of these were written to his brother James, and throw light only upon periods when the brothers were separated. Many were business letters and without present relevancy; many on the other hand will be full of interest to those who cared for him. A judicious selection of these letters has been attempted.

The following extract from a letter to his brother James, written July 27, 1852, shows that he was then attempting to decide upon his career:

. . . . I have now got through the business of the town, I must ask your advice about a family affair. What do you think I had better do? Dr. Senseny thinks I ought to go to school, and then study medicine; but at home they don't seem to be in raptures about it. For my part, I think I would like it very much. Supper is just ready, and I have some matters to attend to after it, so I think, taking everything into consideration, I will be reluctantly obliged to close.

I remain, your brother,

THOMAS.

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It appears to have been decided that he should go to school at least, and perhaps attempt the study of medicine if all went well; in the fall of 1853 he entered the Lancaster high school. There are a few letters extant written by him while a lad of seventeen at this school. They are simple, boyish letters, not of particular interest in regard to his life except perhaps part of one dated May 27, 1854, in which he seems to be reconsidering his idea regarding medicine as a career:

. . . . Do you think I could do anything in Pittsburgh? I don't like to give up the M. D., but I don't think, from hints I have got, that they can see me through very well, as Jennie, in one of her letters, said that I ought to get all the money there was to spare this spring. They have not said anything to me about it, but I expect they will when I go home. I don't want to clerk in Chambersburg at \$100 a year, and board myself, and then have the salary increase in about two years to \$125, and then increase about \$10 a year till it gets to \$200, and then stop. Do you think that I could keep myself the first year in Pittsburgh? This is quite a come down, from the lancet and mortar to the yard stick, but persons must sometimes lower their expectations. . . .

I remain, your affectionate brother,

THOS.

J. W. Cree, Merchant.

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The envelope of this letter carries no stamp, but the postmark has beside it an impression, "Paid 3," showing that the use of engraved stamps for payment of postage was then optional.

The following letter, written upon leaving school at Lancaster, is characteristic of the boy at that time:

Chambersburg, July 17, 1854.

Dear Brother Jim:

It is now half past one P.M., and the heat is intense enough to dissuade any free man who is not subject to the caprice of an exacting task boss from attempting a letter; yet "love for you burns me" (no danger of internal combustion is to be apprehended, however) and persuades me to write, despite the heat.

Aunt Davis and Nill,

Joe, I and Will,

Left Lancaster—What comes next, Peter Quince?—on Wednesday the fifth of July, 1000 eight hundred and 50 four. We had eight or nine cars on the train, all so full that I could not get a seat; but at Dillersville they took up another car, and Nill and I had a very nice sofa to ourselves from there to Harrisburg. I saw young Brice Blair on the train. Being behind time we did not take dinner, so I had quite a fast, not having eaten anything but one half slice of bread for breakfast. But the fast did none of us any harm. We "ariv to hum" at twenty minutes before

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four, and found "Home" is "Sweet home," let it be in ever so mean a town.

We had intended having our commencement on Monday, the third, but could not get the hall on Monday, Tuesday or Saturday, so we had it on Friday. In the morning all the free schools were present and at least two thousand children were in the hall. There were very few grown people there. There were seven of us held forth in the morning, and boquets were abundant.

T. Kirby Cree (a new handle) addressed the audience on "The Evils of War." His eloquence was so great as to enchain the audience (i.e. the children) and the goddesses with their trains stood still and bade the wind be still and hear. The evils were portrayed in such glowing colors as to make great Jupiter change his smile on Juno to a frown and curse the day in which Mars was begotten.

In the evening the graduating class spoke original speeches, and the whole nine were excellent. There were four lady graduates, each of whom had a composition, which was read.

The Fourth was quite a nice day in Lancaster. All the shops were closed and there were a great many people in the city. A Philadelphia company had a dinner given them by the citizens which cost \$400. The fantasticals were out, and the Riflemen with the remnants of two old companies, and the Philadelphia company. In the evening there were fire works, but as they were at the far end of the city I did not go to see them. On the Saturday before

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I came away one of the school boys, about sixteen years old, hung himself. Cause—his dad and mam licked him. “Revenge is sweet.”

Chambersburg is a dull little place. I don’t know whether it is worse than usual, but it is much more perceptible to me now than it ever was before. Lancaster is not a very large or very lively place, but is most a Philadelphia compared with this place. If I were keeping a diary I would write out one day, put in the dates and write “ditto” under them, and it would be a full record.

I would like to go back to Lancaster one year more, but I do not think I can. But Father has not said anything either way yet. I wish you would see how much your boss would give me. Mind, I’m older now than you were when you went out, at least as old, and owing to the high prices of clothing, shoes, barbering, refreshments, provisions, etc., would want more than the paltry salary you got at first. I think I could keep myself on a thousand, or maybe a little less. If he don’t offer me a thousand, why, it don’t make much difference—what’s a few hundred dollars?

Joe says you are to leave Pittsburgh on next Wednesday week. How is it?

I think this is enough, as I am tired writing. The family sends love, hoping to hear from you and to see you soon.

I remain, your afft. Brother,

THOS. K. CREE.

James W. Cree, (Clerk).

Thomas Kirby Cree

He seems to have become decided in his plan to get a position in Pittsburgh, for in the next letter he writes further:

Burnt Cabins, Sept. 6, 1854.

Dear Brother Jim:

. . . . Although the news was not in your letter, still I was very glad to get it. I will wait anxiously until I hear from you, which I expect to do as soon as your boss returns from the East. I hope you will use your influence with Messers Van Gorder and Co. and get them in as deep as you can, and if they can't do what's right, maybe some one else can. You know there is nothing like starting fair. If your firm cannot do anything for me, or what you think is right, try some one else. I intend staying over here until I hear from you and get the particulars. . . .

I remain your affectionate brother,

THOMAS K. CREE.

In compliance with his request his brother secured a position for him with Mr. Frank Van Gorder, apparently at \$250 per annum, as the following letter written shortly before his departure for Pittsburgh seems to indicate. It also gives some personal and domestic details which are interesting as showing how a young man started out in life then as compared with today:

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Chambersburg, Oct. 11, 1854.

Dear Brother :

Yours was received last Saturday. I had been looking for it for a long time, but suppose the reason you did not write was on account of the cholera. If you had written sooner I could have gone this week, and as it was it was not my fault that I was not ready. I tried my best to get them at my shirts all last week but it was no go. After several days talking they got the muslin, etc., but did not touch them till Monday, after your letter was received. I have been talking about my clothes for two weeks and have not a rag of them yet, except one pair of pants, which I got at Grandfathers; and as I must get a dress coat, pants and vest, and this being the busy season of the year for tailors, if I don't get them soon, I'll not get them next week; but get them I must, at least by the latter part of next week. My shirts are the principal drawback; if I could have gotten them the other things would have been hurried up. I would like to go next Thursday week. My idea in wanting to start Thursday is that I could be here two days of the county fair, then go to Pittsburgh, and I could run around and see the lions on Friday and Saturday, and fall into business on Monday, and I could get initiated before your county fair. Perhaps I can do so yet, but it is not very likely, and if not, I will (Providence permitting, and nothing occurring to prevent it), start on Monday or Tuesday, most likely the latter. I will write you next Monday or Tuesday

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telling you which, but will expect a letter the latter part of this week, or before I write.

Do you think that I can keep myself right on \$250? You got only \$225, but then you got boarding and washing for \$125. \$250 sounds like enough, but how much must I pay for boarding, etc?—as I must keep myself on my salary, for funds are scarce here. If they were plenty, I would not be so long getting ready. I wish I had gone to Pittsburgh last fall instead of Lancaster, as I could have had a better outfit than I can this fall; but what I learned there may be of use some day. I suppose I am to board at the Fulton House. If they cannot take me, you can see about boarding elsewhere. Arrange it so that I will have to pay as little as possible this winter, and in the spring you and I can fix it, as I will certainly board with you, that is if you go to house-keeping, as you no doubt will; and you will not charge me more than what's right.

I hope you will not get married before I get out there, as I want to see that it is done in the proper manner. We hear you are to be married this month, but don't believe it is to be so soon. How is it? Don't engage yourself until I see Lou, and tell you whether she will suit. If so, go ahead.

I returned from Grandfather's last Friday week. I was away six weeks, and spent them as pleasantly as I'd wish to, going to cuttings, boilings, etc. "Country people keep good house," certainly they do. Why, one night when I came home, it was only half past four, and Grandfather had the fire made

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for breakfast; but he (poor man!) being blind, did not see me, and neither he nor Grandmother knew what time I got home, although all the rest heard me. The next night I was at an apple cutting, and did not get home until after two; but that night none of them heard me. The next day (Saturday) I went to church twice, and did not sleep a bit. For the week before I left, it would average twelve o'clock every night before I got home. I had a glorious time.

Our fair commences next Tuesday. We expect a good many people here. We expect Aunt Rhoda, Uncle James and Jonathan, Sarah Walker and one of the boys, John and Anne Walker of Fannetsburg, and perhaps some of the Elliotts. If they all come, won't we have a crowd? Father is busy preparing for it. He wants to take a good many things out to the fair. He did not begin to prepare in time and, as usual, has to hurry.

As you are aware, the Synod met here week before last. There was but a small turn out. We had four—Mr. Paul of Canonsburg, staid with us over Sunday, preached in Mr. Clarke's church in the morning, and in Rev. Warner's in the afternoon. He is a star, although he preached with but one arm, having hurt the other one in an upset near Pittsburgh. If he ever preaches in Pittsburgh, go to hear him by all means.

The election is over, and a quieter one I never heard tell of. But then the result—better has not been heard of for time unknown. The Green spot is all right, it will give a whig majority of from 800 to 1000. "Long may she stand!" It is said prohi-

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bition ran well in town, I don't know how well. I hope Pittsburgh is all right. Poor Darsie! I'd move for a committee of condolence to be appointed. Staumbaugh, K. N., will no doubt be elected over Crawford, Whig, in the South ward, and Pollock had 83 majority, and Crawford only 23 votes, while Staumbaugh had 173 votes. The *Whig*, which you will get as soon as this, gives returns as far as heard from.

There is three o'clock, and I want to send this this afternoon, so must close abruptly. Write this week.

I remain, your affectionate brother,

THOMAS K. CREE.

Mr. James W. Cree.

P. S. Mother says to tell you she would write a few lines if she were not so busy with the shirts. . . .

Mr. Cree had positions in Pittsburgh, first with Mr. Van Gorder, and afterwards with Joseph Horne & Co. When the firm of Eaton, Cree & McCrum was formed, James Cree being a member, he was given a position there, holding the same till April or May, 1861.

III. EARLY BUSINESS LIFE

A vacation visit—Business vicissitudes—“‘A shot heard round the world’”—The call for seventy-five thousand men—A man’s question.

IN 1859 Mr. Cree made a visit to his uncle, Mr. Walker, in Griggsville, Ill., probably during his summer vacation. In a letter written at that time he gives a partial account of his journey and reception, which we quote in full, not only for the information it contains and for an insight into his character, but for the style of his writing and the humor of his disposition, which are so well known to his intimate friends:

Griggsville, July 30, 1859.

My dear Bro. Jim—

I arrived here safely last night. Took all the folks completely by surprise—none of them knew me but Uncle Walker. I found all the family at home. Jennie and Mr. Rider, her husband, were also here spending the evening. Little Samuel Rider also amongst the number—a new arrival several weeks ago—a fine large child, weight fourteen pounds.

Uncle Walker has not changed a bit—looks very much like Uncle Jonathan, only he is better looking.

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Aunt Ellen I should not have known, nor any of the rest of the family. Jennie is very well married. Her husband is in the dry goods trade, and does a very large business. Maggie is a very pretty girl; at times she looks very much like Lou Billings, and I think looks a little like Cornie. She is very lively. The boys have grown very much. Jimmie, the eldest, is quite a youth. He is in his father's store.

It has rained all morning, so that I have not seen much of the town. It looks very pleasant from my window.

I had a real pleasant visit in Geneseo. I enjoyed it hugely. I called with Coz. Fannie on some very nice girls. I would have liked to have remained longer, but time would not permit. I came to Bureau Junction and down to Peoria. I intended to take the Ill. River Packet at five o'clock, but found that it would not start until eight next morning. Peoria is a very pretty place—12,000 inhabitants. I was walking around with a Mr. Langford whom I met at Bureau. When I went back to the boat, Captain Reed (quite a gentleman) told me there would be a dance on board that evening. Was glad to hear it. We had a nice dance—met the "elite" of Peoria, some very pleasant and pretty young ladies. Quit about ten o'clock.

After breakfast walked up town again, but saw nobody I knew. We left at eight o'clock—a fine day—got down to Pekin about noon. Stopped two hours to take on freight. I saw all the town. It is a pretty thriving looking place. A railroad is now

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being built through it. It is all a humbug about Pekin being the most populous city in the world, and what women I saw had feet as big as the Pennsylvania Dutch, and tea was as high as it is in Pittsburgh, if not higher. Stopped twice that afternoon and at dusk we got to Havana. Here my friend Langford lives. As we stopped for some time, I went up town with him. He is proprietor of the largest store between Pekin and St. Louis. It is very large and well arranged. I went to his home with him; it is just such as would suit you. It is a very pretty town, very sandy near the river. Langford introduced me to several young men. I had a very pressing invitation to stop over for a party that evening, but could not. I was promised pretty girls and a good dance. Went to bed and slept soundly—on a sand bar—progress all night, thirty miles. At eight next morning came on to good fishing ground, and the captain stopped six hours to give us time to fish. We caught two large buckets full of nice large bass and catfish—the best fishing I ever saw. Whilst we fished, the boat rested on a convenient sand bar, preparatory to a fast run. We had to unload the barge into another one, both of which were taken down the river. After six hours hard work by the deck hands, and the same amount of swearing by the mates, we got off and started on our way rejoicing. I was sorry after I left Havana that I had not bought a box of segars for Paul. Oranges, pineapples, etc., seemed scarce—perhaps this is not the

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season for them. We had a safe and pleasant trip down.

At Naples, the terminus of the S. & M. Road (I do not know where from or where to) I saw a large lot of coal that belongs to Jim and Jonathan Neely. It is a hard looking place.

I got to the landing at quarter past eight o'clock, just dusk, four miles and a half from Griggsville. I tried every way to get them to bring me over, but nothing would induce them to do so before morning, so I left my baggage and walked. It is a lonely road, mostly through woods, and up hill and down; but I did not have a large pile of money and was not afraid of robbers, bears or lions. I met not a soul except cows and hogs. I came near bidding a cow good evening, but it was a white one. I also asked another cow how far it was to Griggsville—you may know it was dark. But I arrived here safely at half past nine, and the folks were glad to see me.

I wish you would send me ten dollars at once. I don't want to leave here until I get it, as I don't want to run out on the road home. I am sorry my visit here must be so short. Maggie and I are going over to Aunt Anne's early next week. All the folks here join in much love to you and Cornie. How is the new home progressing? and when will you commence stock-taking? My kindest regards to the girls (not the servants) and all the folks at the house—and the store.

I am, Your aff't Bro.

TOM.

Early Business Life

Upon coming back from his vacation he writes:

Pittsburgh, August 14, 1859.

Dr. Bro. Jim:

Here I am home again safe and sound, your fears to the contrary notwithstanding. I arrived last night. I left Griggsville the day following the receipt of your letter containing your remittance. I had made all my arrangements for leaving just a week before I did, and expected your letter in time to have done so, but day after day passed and no letter came.

. . . . I do wish you had taken a trip West before you were married, as you can hardly do so now. It is the prettiest country in the world, and then you have some very nice people for relatives out there, who would have been just as glad to see you as they were to see me. In Griggsville I had a real gay time, parties, picnics, drives, rides, etc., every day and evening. I made some very pleasant acquaintances there and shall ever look back upon my visit there as one of the pleasantest of my life—and look forward to another Western trip before I am married. Maggie is a real fine girl—engaged to a preacher, though. It is not suspected by any of the natives. I got it in confidence. She deserves a good man, and I hope she will get one. Jennie lives very nicely. Her husband is a first-rate fellow. They are going to give up house-keeping this week and go to boarding. Take warning! I was there long enough to get acquainted with all the people—the desirable young people

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particularly. A few days before I left we had a real pleasant picnic—went to the sulphur springs nine miles from town. A pleasant drive, and had a good time. I took Maggie and another very nice young lady who was not my cousin, but none the less interesting on that account.

I expect to turn into hard work in the morning. Oh! Stock-taking!

Remember me kindly to Cornie, Chick, Father and Mother.
Your Bro.

TOM.

Early in 1861, owing to some disagreement, the firm of Eaton, Cree & McCrum was dissolved, James Cree withdrawing. Litigation ensued, and it was ten years before the firm's accounts were finally settled. Thomas Cree retained his position temporarily with the firm, but he was endeavoring to obtain a better place, as the following letters show:

Office of Eaton, Cree & McCrum,

Nos. 17 and 19 Fifth St. Pittsburgh,

March 5, 1861.

Dr. Brother:

.
I had a talk with H. this evening. I see he wants me, but wants me on the very smallest possible salary. He wants me to engage for three years, but will not make me an offer for that length of time.

Early Business Life

I came to the conclusion that he is pretty well played out so far as I am concerned. I would not think so much of making a three year proposition, only I know his idea is to get me for less the last years than I would be willing to take at the end of a year or of two years. Had he made me a proposition, say for 800, 1000 or 1200, I would have accepted, only I would not like the idea of giving up my pet scheme of our going into business together, and did I make a three years engagement, it would be my giving up all chance of it. For if you and Frank go into business, I am knocked skyhigh, for it would not pay to give me the salary I ought to have, and a partnership I could not get. Laying aside all claim, on the contingency of the award of the arbitrators, could we not raise enough funds to go into business in the fall? I believe you will get some here, and that before fall, but leaving that out of the question, could we not do something?

My idea now is to hang along here for a few months, if I can, then to secede; but should I have to leave here, I will not be at H.'s mercy, as I have enough to take me home, and a summer's hard work would do me good. I would go over to Uncle James' expecting to pitch in and do as much as any one. I believe I am able to stand it, and I am neither too proud nor too lazy to earn my bread. I would be ready for the fall trade, and if we can do nothing, here, I have my chance for a situation at H.'s or on Wood St., or I believe I could do well East. I would not be surprised if Mr. Eaton, on his return, would

Thomas Kirby Cree

make me a liberal offer for this year, or would bid me a long farewell. After the first of April I really do not care much, as I expect to have fifty or sixty dollars, and I can exist on that till fall; or I might go on trial a couple of months, and thus work along until fall. As you will be out of debt then, and must do something, I think we had best both look forward to going into business in the fall, and steer our course accordingly. Write me what you think of the proposition above put, also what you would propose, if you would make a proposition.

Your brother,

TOM.

April 9, 1861.

. . . . I made arrangements today at \$750. I could have got \$800, but did not want to be hard on them. His plea was that Dan was cut to \$600, and I ought to be willing for Shaw's sake to stand a little reduction. As \$4 a month won't make or break me, I stood it. More particularly as H. only offered me \$600 for one year, and I had backed out of 800, 900 and 1000. I told Mr. E. that I was offered 800, but did not add the "codicil." He did not much like to give me so much, but did not want to let me go. Was anxious to have me satisfied. If your matters do not come up before next month, I am O. K., as after another month or two I don't care for an engagement, as I can do better in the fall than now, at least I hope so. But if he does not take mortal

Early Business Life

offence at statements of mine, I can stay a year if I wish, as I got \$100 more last year than I expected. \$750 is doing very well.

Aff't your Bro.

TOM.

This letter indicates his intention to pursue the business career that he had started upon, but other events came up to influence him. On April 12, three days after this letter was written, Fort Sumter was fired upon by the Confederate battery—a “shot that was heard around the world”—arousing the patriotism of thousands of young men in the North, among them T. K. Cree—in spite of that thrilling depiction of the “horrors of war” by the high school boy of Lancaster, which had so moved the great Jupiter that he “cursed the day in which Mars was begotten.”

On April 15, President Lincoln issued his call for 75,000 men to serve for three months. Southern states had been withdrawing from the Union, and were marshaling armies to maintain the rights they claimed. The greatest excitement prevailed throughout the North; everyone was full of uncertainty. No one knew what to expect in a business way, or even what to do in regard to his personal actions. Should he enlist, or should he not? How far should

Thomas Kirby Cree

one permit family ties or the requirements of business to interfere with the needs of his country? All were asking this question and each one had to decide it for himself.



THOMAS K. CREE
1866

IV. MILITARY EXPERIENCES

War excitement in Pittsburgh—Thomas enlists in the
“Rifles”—Camp Wilkins—Back in Chambersburg—
Trying for a commission—Business again—“Cree
Brothers”—In the State service again—Antietam—
Business life—The firm dissolved.

MR. CREE'S military experience was not of long continuance, and it is thought did not materially affect his life. But it was a thrilling period, and was full of interest at the time; it is given here at some length as it is probably new to most of his acquaintances. He seldom referred to it, and when he did it was in a joking way, as if he considered the matter of little import. The few letters that are available are given nearly in full; they give a more complete picture than could otherwise be obtained:

Pittsburgh, April 21, 1861.

Dr. Bro. Jim:

One packed off in the country as you are can have no idea of the excitement. Yesterday was the most exciting day ever witnessed in the city. The streets were jammed from morning till night. I believe on Fifth and Smithfield at one time yesterday there

Thomas Kirby Cree

were ten thousand men. A lot of contraband goods were seized by the Committee, and some man was seized as having had something to do with them, and the rush was to string him up. It was with the greatest difficulty that he was lodged in the Tombs. The work of recruiting goes bravely on. You would not were you here be surprised to hear that I have volunteered. I have joined the Pittsburgh Rifles. We have now fifty-one men, and dare only have seventy-seven.

Aleck Nimich has been offered the post of captain, and I think he will take it. Ten thousand dollars have been raised to equip us, and as soon as we can get armed, uniformed and drilled, we go into active service. Almost every man I know, or ever did know, has either left or volunteered. Dr. King goes out on the medical staff. The ladies met at Lafayette Hall this morning to prepare lint, bandages, etc., or rather to receive instructions about it. The ladies in Minersville are making shirts, etc., for volunteers, and all, "regardless of age or sex," are doing all in their power to forward the glorious cause. All the ministers yesterday preached war sermons. Dr. Howard last night gave a splendid sermon—War and to the knife; advised all young men to go, and old men to organize for home protection—to save every dollar and dime to support the families of those who go to defend their country. He said he would die under the Star Spangled Banner if he had to follow it to the North Pole. He closed with Drake's address to the American Flag.

Military Experiences

The Star Spangled Banner, Oh long may it wave,
O'er the land of the Free, and the home of the brave.

At Christ Church, the Fireman's legion was at church, and as they went in the organist played the "Star Spangled Banner," "Red, White and Blue" and "Hail Columbia." I have not heard from home since I wrote, but as Chambersburg is threatened, they will see the necessity for prompt action, and will be reconciled to my going. I have thought calmly of the danger, but 'tis duty's call. I will be wanted and may as well go with my companions, those who will stand by me, come what may.

We are all anxious to get off, but cannot for two weeks, as our arms will not be ready. We drill every day and evening, commencing at two o'clock today. Mr. E. says for me to give the store what time I can spare from military duties. Rev'd McMillan says he will go, if wanted. Rev'd Sensebaugh (Smithfield and 7th) volunteered as a private, and a dozen other ministers offer services as chaplains.

We sell volunteer's goods at cost. Have sold out our stock of undershirts, drawers, etc. I sold a bill of \$79 for a Westmoreland Co. Saturday night—all shirts and drawers. The Committee of Safety are very vigilant and have compelled all who are doubtful to run out the "Red, White and Blue." Sam McK. (Mary's father) was badly frightened. He expressed some traitorous sentiment, and the cry was, "Hang him!" His friends saved him and got him home. He at once ran out his flag and sent a check

Thomas Kirby Cree

for \$1000 to the Vigilance Committee. Bill joined a company, and Mary and the folks got to preparing lint, bandages, etc. Thus converts are made; the hot secessionists are warm Union men. There is no diversity of opinion. Hopkins has joined a company, and I think Brooks will go with us in the Rifles. I believe Pitt. will furnish 5000 men at this call. The President will call for 150,000 more men, and if they cannot be raised will draft them.

I sincerely hope that you will not get the war spirit, as you have a wife and family, and a brother who is in active service. I'll write to Coz. Fannie as soon as I get time, but I'll have but little to spare till we get into camp. We have secured the fair grounds for our out-door drill. Another company took our name, but have agreed to drop it, as we go into service first and they think we are entitled to it.

Our trade is first-rate but military goods are the rage. All the ladies sport red, white and blue bows, and encourage all young men (not their brothers) to go. Patriotism is a good thing, so long as it does not come home too close. We have some sorry duties here, selling underclothes for sons, brothers and husbands. Mrs. Stewart came in Saturday and asked me to give her all she would need for George, and burst into tears. She seemed to think it was his duty to go, but said it was hard to part with him—so every one feels.

Before I leave I will swear to statement, and should anything happen you will have it as a deposition. I'll write to you more particularly before we are

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ordered off. Alice has just bought a revolver for her brother, who leaves this week.

Aff't your Bro.

TOM.

Military enthusiasm in Pittsburgh was at a very high flood for some time. The "Pittsburgh Rifles" were moved out to Camp Wilkins, were supplied with arms and took up their military instruction with great zeal, as may be seen from the following letter:

Camp Wilkins, May 7, 1861.

Dr. Brother Jim:

At last we are soldiers in good earnest. Marched to camp yesterday. Had a full band on parade and won the admiration of the ladies. The public and the papers say we are the *very* finest company ever gotten up in Pittsburgh. Although yesterday was a most miserable day, we had a real jolly time—on an empty stomach, too. Did not have a bite to eat from six o'clock in the morning till five o'clock in the evening, and then again till seven o'clock this morning; but the boys were all gay and happy and did not seem to mind the fast at all. We pitched into our pork and beans with a vengeance when they did come. We have two nigger cooks, and they dress up our provisions in the best style. Our "mess" is Slagle, Morrison, Robinson, Ditheridge, Zimmerman and myself. Last night we quartered Lieutenant

Thomas Kirby Cree

Beatty in our bunk. We sleep on straw, but have lots of blankets, etc., and sleep like tops after our happy family concert (cats, dogs, calves, etc., a-la-Barnum) which closed about eleven o'clock.

We have prayers about nine o'clock, led by White-man, a young student from Dr. Plummer's seminary. Our men all seem pleased with the arrangement. We were up bright and early this morning—five o'clock.

I guess I can get along without any pecuniary aid, except I want you to take my oil shares into your charge. (The Sumpter, we have paid in \$70, an assessment of \$10 is now due, and \$20 more will be called for. I want you to pay that. Should it not amount to anything, our horses, tools, etc., will sell for more than will make up the outlay, so that you can lose nothing in the end. Our Mecca, with \$20 paid in, will call for \$10 more. You pay that, and go half on the speculation. I don't know but I can run my face on that, but should I have to pay that, I'll let you know. Our prospects are good, and the well is being sunk very economically. \$10 more will put down a well of ours 200 feet, which is twice as deep as they sink at Mecca, so that no more may be needed. The Sumter you lose nothing.) I leave no debts behind me except a little bill, a few dollars at Jno. Campbell's. Should I not come back, you pay that, and take my books, which are stored over Robt's store.

Aff't your Bro.

TOM.

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Camp Wilkins, May 25, 1861.

Dr. Bro. Jim:

Your letter came to hand a few days ago. Am glad to hear that you are all getting along so nicely and pleasantly, freed as you are from all cares and vexations of business. I had expected to be ruralizing myself, by the first of July, perhaps sooner, but now I am out of that mess.

We are getting along very nicely in camp. Kept quite busy with drills, guard, etc. Commenced a letter two or three days ago, but after writing a page was called away for drill, and have not had time to touch it since. This being a Monday morning we miss our drill, giving me an extra two hours. We are all improving very much in drill. Have the name of being the best drilled company in Western Pennsylvania. Our boys are all rubbing up their rifles this morning. We gave up our straw about a week ago and now sleep on a nice soft pine board. At first it made us awful sore in the morning, but now we get along first rate. Our objection to the straw was its keeping our quarters so dirty, in spite of every effort to keep them clean.

Last night I came in from guard at half past twelve o'clock, and was soon sound asleep; a stream of water coming through the roof awoke me, but on shifting my position, was soon sound asleep again. Was on guard day before yesterday—traded off from 8 to 10 for two hours last night, got the countersign and a pass, and went down town to a party. It was at Coleman's, and we had a gay time. I enjoyed it all

Thomas Kirby Cree

the more from not being used to such things; the refreshments tasted better than ever before. It was a change from our camp diet. I had to tear myself away in time to go on guard at two o'clock. It required something very strong to take me away from a good dance and a gay party. I have only been at two parties since we came to camp.

I am holding on to your check for ten dollars; if I can get along without it, I will do so. I don't think there will be any call for more, as we have got an extension of the lease and stopped. I was down on Friday to the well. I think as much of the site as ever, and would not give it up. We struck a good vein of oil at Mecca, and when oil gets up, it will be worth something. It only cost twenty dollars a share.

Love to all, Aff't your Bro.

TOM.

Although in April the company had expected to be in active service in two weeks, June found them still in preparation at Camp Wilkins and getting quite impatient.

Pittsburgh, June 3, 1861, Camp Wilkins.

Dr. Bro:

Your letter came to hand some time since. I would have replied sooner, but have but little time when letter writing is desirable. Between drilling, guard and visitors, our time is pretty well taken up. I have not used the ten dollars yet. May be able to get along without it, or may have to borrow it for any purpose.

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Our boys now are very generally discussing plans to get into active service, or leaving camp and going to business again, holding ourselves in readiness if needed. I don't know what it will amount to. It is rumored in camp this morning that Captain Smith has gone to his friends in Ohio and intends raising \$1000 to take us to Washington to offer ourselves to the President. The company are all in favor of so doing, and then if it does not amount to anything, we will let the country look out for itself. We object to going into the service of the state and lying around in camp, as we are well enough drilled to go anywhere. Our captain said a day or two ago, after parade in town, that he would put us against any company in the regular service for drill.

We had quite an excitement in camp last week. We were ordered to be ready for Virginia at six o'clock next morning, and gaily we packed up. I took in town dress coat, portfolio, quilts, etc., bade good-bye and came back to find the order countermanded. There was great grumbling among the thirteen unlucky companies. About midnight the Rifles were ordered out to quell a riot in the guard house. One of the Erie companies had drowned their disappointment in whiskey, and occupied the guard house. We got to work and tied some, nailed some to the floor, and frightened the others. At one time it looked dangerous, but we fixed it up satisfactorily.

We had nice parades in town Thursday, Friday and Saturday; marched from seven to ten miles each day under the hottest sun imaginable. Our men all

Thomas Kirby Cree

stood it first-rate. Several, of the other companies, fainted and had to be carried off, but we came out as gaily as we went in. On drill, many of the regiment and other companies have fainted on hot days, but none of our men have shown signs of even being tired. On Saturday we had a flag presentation—a magnificent set of colors. We turned out with our knapsacks and cartridge boxes, and made a fine show. We are now ready for war, fully equipped. We go up to Hulton day after tomorrow. Our camp there is very pleasantly located. We have lots of room, and the quarters are good for camp; rather contracted here, our bunks are six feet by twenty inches, rather narrow for a big man, and short for a long one. I like the change; it will be much drier and more healthy.

I was on guard Sunday twelve hours out of twenty-four (got from three to half past five sleep) but did not feel any bad effects from it. Sunday was a horrible night to be out, but got through very well. Last night our bed was quite wet—the first time that we have been inconvenienced in that way.

I go out to Mr. Gracey's for dinner and tea quite often. Got spring chicken yesterday—quite a change from camp fare. We now live on camp fare, get along very well on it. It was a come down from our fare at first, but "soldiers are almost played out." I suppose you hear from home often.

Aff't your Bro.

TOM.

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There is a gap of about three weeks in the letters extant of this period. It is apparent that during this time events were somewhat contrary for the soldiers of the Pittsburgh Rifles. It is possible that Captain Smith was unable to raise the needful \$1000 to transport the company to Washington. At any rate the next letter is written from Chambersburg, where Thomas had evidently gone when he decided with others not to enter the service of the State of Pennsylvania:

Chambersburg, June 28, 1861.

Dr. Bro. Jim:

I arrived here safely on last Monday morning; found the folks all well, but the town awfully dull, after the great Army life. But it seemed as lively as usual to me. I was loath to quit my company. Would not have done so, had it not been for my great repugnance to going into the state service; but I would even have swallowed that, had not so many of my friends left the company. The conditions under which the boys were sworn in were, to lie in camp three months, and to be subject to a call of the Government any time within three years. We all say, if the company goes into active service soon, we will go along, three years to the contrary notwithstanding. I am now after something better than H. P. I am after a lieutenancy in the regular service, and I think my chances for obtaining it are very

Thomas Kirby Cree

good. As to the prospects, I have a very good letter to Lincoln from Curtin, recommending the appointment; have a letter from David Blair to Cameron & Wilmot (senator) both great personal friends of his. Have the promise of Cowan's (senator) influence, also of McPherson's. I will get a letter from Brewer to Cameron (his cousin) and one from McClure to make sure of McPherson. Gen. Markle went out to Greensburg with me to see Cowan, but he was in Washington; but he (Gen. Markle) says he can promise me both Cowan and McPherson sure, on his recommendation. Dr. Senseny is going to introduce me to Gen. McClellan (2nd to Gen. Scott) if he comes over about Harper's Ferry, or get me a letter recommending the appointment. The Doctor was quite taken with the idea, and will do all he can for me—says it is just the thing for me. As I want to go to the war, I ought to go in as high a position as I can command, and in point of health, Dr. S. says it would be the making of me. I was sick two months before I went to camp, and was not sick a day while there. Summer after summer have I had a return of my old failing, although I was as careful as I could be, so it is evident I must do something else than clerk in a store. As a commissioned officer I can resign if a soldier's life does not agree with me. As a private, I must serve out my time.

And now to the point. To get the appointment will most probably necessitate a trip to Washington, and you know the state of my finances. I came home without using your ten dollars, but that is my pile.

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I want you to loan me, say twenty dollars more. If I get the commission, I can pay you out of my first month's pay. If I do not get the appointment, I expect to go back to the store, and can pay you out of my first month's receipts, or if you need the money, I can make it out of my valuables—that is, if I go to the wars as a high private, which just now I feel undecided about—should my commission effort fail. Dr. Senseny says he is sure I can get it, but advises me to put in for 1st lieutenant instead of second. I feel very sanguine, and were it not for the Scriptural injunction, "Put not your trust in Princes," would feel almost sure of it. Many a *more obscure* man has gotten much better positions with much worse influence. If you send me a draft on Robt. Davis I can get it cashed here. I will be as economical as I can in the matter, and will use as little as possible of the money. Please answer me at once, as time is important.

Aff. your Bro.

TOM.

One would think that the check for ten dollars would have been worn out long before this time. It is evident that Mr. Cree was economical as he states. The initials "H. P." in the above letter are supposed to stand for "high private." Three weeks later, he is still of the same mind in regard to an appointment in the regular service:

Thomas Kirby Cree

Chambersburg, July 10, 1861.

Dr. Bro Jim:

Your letter came to hand a few days ago. Contents noted (that is, turned into bank notes). I have not made my trip to Washington yet, but expect to get off in a few days. I had expected to go tomorrow, but find I cannot be ready, as Dr. McClelland has not been heard from yet. I have much hope from his influence. I got a first-rate letter from Judge Chambers, and many others, but "Princes are not to be depended on." I'll let you know the result. I have made up my mind not to give it up in despair, even should success not attend my first effort.

Town is very dull, nothing at all doing. Folks all wish for another arrival of soldiers. Over ten thousand from Washington to reinforce Gen. Patterson passed through Monday, and a lot more last night, and more are expected today. Patterson will have 25,000 men under him. The two armies are only about eight miles apart. Patterson was to have moved forward yesterday, and a fight seemed inevitable. I have not yet been over to see the army; it is hard to get at them where they now are. Many of the sick soldiers are still about town, some still very ill.

Afft. your Bro.

TOM.

From the next letter it would seem that he was wise not to put too much "trust in

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Princes," though it is over a month before he writes :

Chambersburg, Aug. 15, 1861.

Dr. Bro. Jim :

I got home from Washington yesterday, after a pleasant but profitless trip of a week. Circumstances worked against me, and by an accident I was kept from going until it was too late. Had I got there a month ago, I have no doubt but that I could have gotten the appointment I sought. But perhaps it is well that things turned out as they have. I reluctantly give up the war. Had not Father and Mother so very strongly objected, I could have joined the Rifles, but they would not hear of it. The boys complain very much, but I could stand it if the rest could. Mother did not want me to go, even could I get the commission.

I found your letter awaiting me. Am sorry I did not get it sooner. From it I see my last had not come to hand. On your account, I should much like to go into business, but we must have capital to start on. \$3000 would do, but much less it would be hard to get through on, as times now are. I am going over the mountains again in a few days, and will see definitely what I can do in the way of funds. If you are in Pittsburgh, try Mr. Gracey. Mother has \$200 we can have. Father might raise some, though, as times are, it is hard to tell. If Uncle James and Jonathan can give \$500, Mr. Dunham \$1200, and you \$200 or \$300, there is still near \$1000 to raise,

Thomas Kirby Cree

and you must go to housekeeping on six months' time.

Father is anxious we should go into business, and if he can do anything, he will. I think if you could get on Market near 5th, it would be a better location. Frank's is a little too high up, but still might do, although I never liked that place.

I had a letter from H. yesterday. I much wish I could see you, but I will not do anything in it for a week or two, till we see definitely what we can do.

I had a letter from Rob. yesterday. He is much down on your idea of going into business this fall—thinks it a bad time, etc. But you ought to do something now, as every day you are out of the business the more unfits you for a successful prosecution of it.

Afft. your Bro.

TOM.

From the above it will be seen that Mr. Cree's mind is turning again to business concerns. But few letters are available for this period and they give little information. The family conference was probably held, and arrangements made for raising funds for the new venture. It was a most unfortunate time for launching such an enterprise, as the excitement and uncertainty caused by the war made money scarce and difficult to obtain. Firms were becoming bankrupt everywhere and credit was poor. Quite a large sum was claimed from the old partnership, but it was not obtained

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until after long delay and litigation. However, in the fall of 1861, Thomas and his brother James began business in Pittsburgh under the firm name of "Cree Brothers." They opened a trimming and notion store, and were successful from the first. A great part of their business was in the sale of trimmings for officers' uniforms, for which there was a large and constant demand at that time. The next extract is written from Meadville, probably during a vacation:

. . . . Were it not for the firm, I would go off for a nine months' campaign with the Rifles. I really believe it would be the making of me. One thing, it would either kill or cure, and I need the latter. However, it is not long now until winter, and then I am all right; and next summer, I am good for two months at Clifton Springs.

Your brother,

TOM.

It is evident from the above that Mr. Cree had not yet entirely given up the idea of army life. That he still was anxious to do what he considered his duty to his country is shown by the letter given below. It is difficult for anyone, after all these years since the war, to appreciate the excitement then existing over the military situation. The armies of the

Thomas Kirby Cree

North and South were approaching each other not far from the Pennsylvania state line, and all felt that a decisive battle was soon to be fought. Men were needed, and old and young were offering themselves for their country's service.

Pittsburgh, August 9, 1862.

Dr. Bro. Jim:

This has been an awful week, at least as much so as hot days and hotter nights could make it. I don't think I ever suffered so much from that cause in my life before. I have donned a linen suit, and even with that, it is just about as much as I can do to exist. At night it is impossible to sleep, and in the mornings one must get up to try and get cool; but it seems just as hot at sunrise as at midday.

Trade continues about as last week. I have done some little collecting; have called on all our heavy accounts, and put them in a way to be collected. It is awful warm work, as it has to be done in the hottest part of the day.

I have not gotten an answer to my queries yet. Military matters are the all exciting topic. Our first quota is full, and about 1200 of the second are enlisted. I guess there will be no call for drafting in this county. There are over sixty companies organized in the county, and about 3000 enlisted.

Rev'd Clarke over on the Second Bank raised three companies this week. But the papers keep you posted. John came back, having been refused on

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account of size. I was glad to see him. Eaton lost four men; Horne four and many other stores as many. Smith Johnson and Robt., who used to be with us, are from Horne's, and a couple you know at Orr's have gone. The boy in at the brush factory, the clerk, has gone, and Robert Davis' William Waters also. Over at the P. Ft. W. & C. R. R., they talk of shutting up, so many have left they say they cannot run all the trains.

I would be off mighty soon were it not for this little trimming store. I don't see how a young man with no business to keep him, can stay at home. How would it do for me to go anyway?

Afft. your Bro,

TOM.

August 29 and 30, 1862, the Confederates were successful at the second battle of Bull Run and moved north. By the eighth of September they reached Frederick, Md., and passed on to Hagerstown, the Union forces, entering Frederick four days later, attempting to stop them. Under the threat of invasion, there was a rapid mobilizing of state troops; Mr. Cree once more rallied to the flag and was with the army that was rushed down to intercept the enemy. Before he could get far, however, the Confederates were decisively defeated at Antietam on September 17, and after a few days retreated into Virginia.

Thomas Kirby Cree

Camp on the Way to the Battle-field,
Hagerstown, Sept. 19, 1862.

Dr. Bro. Jim:

You will doubtless be surprised to know that "the galliant conscripts" are on the soil of the claimed Southern Confederacy. We arrived here this morning, and went into camp two miles beyond Hagerstown, on the road leading to Sharpsburg, the battlefield.

We arrived in Harrisburg safely about eight o'clock and stayed there one night. Had good tents and got along finely. Did not "bob an eye" on the way over. Marched and counter-marched all day. Got our arms, ammunition and equipments and retired early, tired and sleepy, and slept like tops. Got marching orders for Chambersburg last evening, and left on fifteen minutes notice, supperless. We were only from six to ten o'clock marching and countermarching about Harrisburg, while loading the cars. Had superior "sleeping cars"—i.e. P. R. R. freight—overland, and again passed an entirely sleepless night. Got to Chambersburg at five o'clock and got orders to come on here. Regiment mutinied, cut off the car I was on. At first but two men voted to go, not counting the officers. Of this respectable minority, I was one. But after sundry speeches, "That this was to decide the day, etc.," "Grand display of reserves, etc.," the company except eight decided to come, and the regiment except about one hundred. We fully expected to meet the enemy "today," but as yet have not done so. We arrived

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here at eight o'clock, and marched around without any breakfast till twelve o'clock. Had then arrived at our camp, a nice clover field, minus tents, trees or any kind of shelter. In an hour were ordered to fall in and report in town for Provost Guard duty for twenty-four hours. Had to come without breakfast or dinner or supper the night before, or a wink of sleep. We are now quartered in a Lutheran church. I occupy the pulpit, and am now writing on the Bible, the only place left vacant. . . .

The town is full of rumors of the battle, and a constant train of wounded are arriving. We have what we think is reliable news of the killing of Col. Jas. Childs of Pittsburgh. Copley of the Rifles is killed, Ouston and Ed Darlington, it is thought, mortally wounded. Baker is in the hospital here, but none of us has seen him. I guess he is only slightly wounded, as most who have arrived are not dangerously wounded. It is said we took 18,000 prisoners yesterday, and that last evening McClellan had surrounded Jackson and he could not escape. He gave him till ten this morning to surrender, and it is said that he surrendered, with all his forces. A man from the field told me we had got 70,000 men from Washington last night, and that this day would decide the war. Another man told me that both armies formed the line of battle at one o'clock today. I doubt the last, as we did not hear any firing, and we are only seven miles from the battle field.

I don't know where we go from here, but I do not

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think we will go on to the battle field. We have orders in camp to be ready for anything, and to report cavalry, if it appeared. But I guess we are in a safe location. I made up my mind last night to come, if only with a corporal's guard. Our captain is major, and I am 4th corporal. Aint it a heavy "posish"?

Our mess is Ward, Sutton, Williams, Will Sellers, and McClure. I don't know what the show is for sleep tonight. Adieu for supper, our first meal with coffee, and the first of Government fare. All our fixings are in camp. How we are to eat without knife, plate, tin or other fixings, we must see. Should we move from here, I will inform you. Don't send me any letters till you hear from me.

Supper over—extent, one of the B. C. lot of crackers, a piece of meat and a tin of coffee minus cream or sugar. But we will not suffer. Our boys are all gay and festive—all well. Never felt better in my life. Being a corporal, I may get off guard tonight, but don't know.

All business is suspended here. Citizens are required to attend to wounded. Jackson is out of ammunition—fired fence rails from his cannon instead of balls. We boys would recommend Government crackers as more dangerous.

Forward any letters to me, and write to me, "Hagerstown, Co. G, Colonel Galloway's regiment." This is final.

We have a rebel lieutenant under guard about two feet from me. I finish this standing on the back of

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a pew, holding a tin plate to write on, by a tallow dip.

Tell Mother not to worry about me, as I don't think there is any danger of our seeing a fight. I will inform you of any change of position or permanent location. 16,000 Pa. conscripts came over in last two or three days.

Your bro.

TOM.

A week later Mr. Cree was still at Hagerstown, on provost guard duty, appearing to enjoy military life as much as was possible under the circumstances:

Headquarters, Provost Marshall,

Hagerstown, Sept. 26, 1862.

Bro Jim:

We are still in Hagerstown, acting Provo Guard. I like the "posish" very well, as we have comfortable quarters and not very much to do. I wrote you the day we were detailed. That evening our regiment, as well as every other one, left Hagerstown, leaving Cos. "B" & "G" to guard the whole of the "Secesh" place. 30,000 Pa. militia were stationed around the city, within a circle of three miles, and lay on their arms in line of battle all night. They were called up three times, and some of the regiments did some little skirmishing. I know of only one man who was killed. The Anderson Cavalry were driven

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in with a slight loss, but reformed on our lines and drove the rebels back. Our orders were very strict, and it was generally expected that something was going to happen. It was said that if that night passed all would be well. I had charge of about seventy-five prisoners. Had five men under me, and was ordered to hold the prison against any attack. About two o'clock in the morning an order came in from the commander in the field (issued at the time the Anderson Cavalry were driven back), to retreat to Chambersburg, and take the prisoners along. With two men I woke up the prisoners and in twenty minutes had them in marching order, in line between the two Provo Guard companies. Just when we were about starting, the order was countermanded. It is said the whole thing was done very expeditiously and quietly. No one seemed frightened, though we were told that Rebel cavalry was only two miles from town. Had we gone, every man would have been with us.

I was in charge of the prisoners twenty-four hours. Did not sleep a wink and was not allowed to leave the prison. Talked to all the prisoners I wished to. As corporal of the guard, a man can put on considerable brief authority. Was out at the battle field yesterday. It was an awful sight. Many, very many rebels were still unburied. It was an awful sight, such as one sees only once in a lifetime.

I saw Fred Dunham just beyond the battle field. He was looking fat and hearty. Had a long talk with him. He is in about as much danger, generally, as you are. I saw Josh. Reynolds. He is look-

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ing better than when he left home. Spent quite a while with the Rifles. Only thirteen of the originals are left. Saw McKnight. He is well. I enclose a list of the killed, wounded and missing of the company since they left Pittsburgh. If it has not yet been published, hand it to Lane or O'Neal to publish. The reserves suffered considerably. The last fight, the whole division occupied about as much room (15 regiments) as does Col. Clarke's regiment. Saw Frank Van Gorder's horse, but could not find him. I would not have missed my visit to the boys for anything. Major Frend is Provo Marshal of Hagerstown, and Alf Ralston is acting captain. We have marching orders, but don't know when we leave. It is said we are to march to Greencastle this afternoon. I want you to send me the articles of the enclosed list to Chambersburg, care of W. S. Everett, and write to him to forward it if he can do so safely, if not to wait till called for. Have not heard a word from home since I left. Don't see any paper. Hear a report here that Richmond is occupied by our forces; of course we believe it—some day.

I saw Geo. Robinson, he is looking very well. Give my love to all the folks at the house, and store. . . . Did up my sewing before breakfast this morning.

Your Bro.

TOM.

There are no further letters in regard to Mr. Cree's military life, but it is known that it

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did not continue much longer. It is probable that, the Confederates having been driven back and the emergency over, the Pennsylvania troops were relieved from their duties in Maryland, ordered back to their state and discharged from service. Perhaps, had his health permitted, he would have seen a longer and more arduous military service, but his continued ill health forced him to give up the idea for a time. He was sick at Chambersburg for several months following this "campaign" with a return of the chronic trouble from which he had long suffered and which was again brought on by the exposure, the diet and other incidents of the soldier's life. That he had not entirely given up the idea of obtaining a commission, however, is shown by the following copy of a telegram, dated nearly two years later:

Chambersburg, July 14, 1864.

To J. W. Cree, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Will company fill? Shall I go Lieutenant? If yes, home tonight.

TOM.

From this we infer that a company was being organized in Pittsburgh, and that there was a prospect of his being elected lieutenant in it.

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We know that he did not get the position, but as to the circumstances or reasons, no information is at hand.

During 1862, 1863 and 1864, with the exception of the break made by his soldier life in 1862, he was busily engaged in the affairs of Cree Brothers. He had excellent business judgment, especially with regard to the financial portion of their affairs, and their business prospered.

In July, 1863, shortly after the battle of Gettysburg, Mr. Cree was in Chambersburg, either on business or a vacation. One of his letters at this time is of interest as showing the demoralization of the railroads and other means of transportation, caused by the movements of troops:

Chambersburg, July 19, 1863.

Dr. Bro Jim:

I had expected to leave for home yesterday, stopping over Sunday in Huntingdon, but a bilious attack prevented. On Thursday night I was taken quite sick, and kept in bed Friday and Saturday. Today I am able to be out, but am not well yet. Should I feel all right tomorrow, I will leave, stopping over night in Huntingdon.

We expect the cars up today. Should they not commence running by tomorrow, I may not get off,

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as it is expensive and difficult getting to Shippensburg, many wanting to go, and the facilities for getting there being scarce. Were I well, I should not mind walking, but would not fancy a walk of eleven miles now, carrying a valise.

I had a real pleasant visit to "the Army of the Potomac," spent two days with it, and saw many old friends. It is in a splendid condition, but sadly disappointed over Lee's escape into Virginia. The army, however, considers it no fault of Meade's, but an unavoidable accident. As the army was on the move all the time, I had much difficulty finding those I wished to see, as they were changing positions all the time, and no one knew anything about anyone else.

I do not know whether Father or Mother has written you yet, I guess the matter of their going out is still under advisement.

I was sorry to hear of your being drafted, as \$300 in addition to our income tax comes heavy just at present. You ought to save that \$300 in some way this year. How comes it that you let Robert off again, after being away so long as he was? I hardly think I will get away from here before Tuesday, as the cars will hardly commence to run before that, and I will not feel like walking to Shippensburg after being sick. Hackmen ask as high as \$3 to Shippensburg.

Afft. your Bro.

TOM.

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The firm of Cree Brothers was in existence for about eight years. It was dissolved in 1869, James W. Cree moving to Meadville and going into business there. The funds withdrawn from the firm of Cree Brothers upon the dissolution of the partnership were the foundation of the estate left by Mr. Cree at his death. From that time he was in receipt of a salary which sufficed for his needs, so that he was able not only to keep these funds invested but to add to them from time to time. For over forty years they were invested to advantage and carefully looked after. He had excellent business instincts and he employed them in the management of his affairs. He was most simple in his tastes, he lived quietly and inexpensively, and always within his income. His extensive travels through the West and South put him in touch with business conditions throughout the country, and enabled him to exercise his rare judgment in regard to investments, and from this he profited.

Thomas K. Cree did not immediately undertake any business, being undecided as to just what to do. In August he made quite an extended trip through the East and the Middle West. October 7 (1869), he wrote from Pittsburgh to his brother—it seems probable that during his trip he saw some business oppor-

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tunity which appeared favorable, and he was endeavoring to decide in regard to it:

. . . . Am very busy overboard, and will write you in a few days. Should I decide to go into business in the spring, which looks probable, and I should go into banking in the West, I should not only want all my money, but all besides that I could raise. . . .

V. CHRISTIAN WORK IN PITTSBURGH

“One of Moody’s kind”—A thorough conversion—Joins the Association—Portland International Convention—Out of business—A letter that had results—Williamsport Convention—General secretary in Pittsburgh—Resigns to go with Indian Commission—An old friend’s appreciation.

THE Church life and the Association life of Thomas K. Cree appear to have been coincident; immediately upon his conversion he connected himself with and became active in both. The reader will remember when the boy stood on the sidewalk in front of the old Falling Spring church debating as to whether or not he should reënter the meeting, and of his negative decision. The next reference to any religious impression occurs about ten years later, at the time of his sister’s death, and this was not lasting. In the early summer of 1866, Mr. Moody, in passing through Pittsburgh, spoke in one of the churches on a Sunday evening. Mr. Cree attended the service and writes: “It was the first time I ever heard Mr. Moody. I was not a Christian at that time, but I remember the meeting very distinctly, and the impression that Mr. Moody made on me was, that if ever I became a Christian I meant to be one of his kind.”

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At this late day but little can be learned regarding Mr. Cree's conversion and his early Christian life in Pittsburgh, even his correspondence failing us here. However, brief papers from the Hon. H. K. Porter and W. K. Jennings, Esq., both of whom were actively identified with the Pittsburgh Association in the early days, supply some very interesting facts. In 1866 the Association had a new birth, and in connection with the work inaugurated during the winter of 1866-1867 there was a very extensive religious revival. During this Mr. Cree was converted, and on the 22d of March, 1867, he united with the Third Presbyterian Church, of which the Rev. Dr. Herrick Johnson was then pastor. "I remember," a friend writes, "when Mr. Cree was converted, although he was older than I. I had been a Christian several years and was much interested in the great work of grace going on during that winter. It was a radical change and a signal instance of the transforming power of God's spirit. 'Tom' was settled for life, and I never saw any wavering or looking back."

Mr. Jennings writes: "It soon became evident to all observers that a remarkable transformation in his life and character had taken place. From a gay, worldly young man,

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devoted to pleasure and business, he became an earnest and devoted Christian, the whole bent of his energies was turned into a new channel and his life was given up to Christian work. He at once identified himself with the Association and the same qualities that had made him successful in business soon rendered him prominent in this organization. Some time before 1870 he retired from business, and although he had many flattering and promising offers by very prominent business men to become associated with them in their enterprises, in some of which he would have had undoubted opportunities to amass very considerable wealth, he declined them all because he had consecrated himself to the Master's service."

Mr. Cree attended as a delegate from the Pittsburgh Association the International Convention at Detroit, in 1868, and also in July of the following year the historic convention at Portland, Maine. At these gatherings he came into touch with many of the great leaders of the early days, men who must have made a strong impression upon the young Christian worker, and men with whom a little later he was to come into close and important relationships.

The Portland convention had a practical and

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immediate effect upon the Association movement in Pennsylvania. There was at this time no organized state work; a state convention had been held three years before in Philadelphia, but it was a small affair. At Portland the Pennsylvania delegates were called together at a luncheon by Thomas H. Rabe, of Pittsburgh, in the interests of state work; a provisional organization was effected of which Mr. Cree was made chairman. It was decided to call a state convention for the ensuing fall and the Williamsport delegates offered to entertain the gathering. We now quote from Mr. Porter:

“On Mr. Cree’s return from Portland he told me what had been done, of meeting Mr. Moody and Mr. Thane Miller, and of the state convention to be held in October or November. He was very enthusiastic in regard to the matter. Shortly after this he advised me by letter that he had decided to sell out his Pittsburgh business, and was going off to California for a long trip; he wanted me to make all the arrangements for the state convention. He might be back and he might not. I immediately notified him that I had had no experience whatever in this line, had never met the men that he had seen in Portland, was not in touch with the situation and that my hands were full with

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my own affairs. Further, that the spirit awakened at Portland must be the keynote for Williamsport, and that only someone moved by that spirit could adequately carry it over from Maine to Pennsylvania. And further still, that now he had decided to close his own business and was off for a long vacation, I urged him in no unfriendly fashion to consider carefully if this were not a providential guidance, pointing out to him a special service—in fact a divine call. And I further told him explicitly that I certainly should not undertake any such task.

“Mr. Cree always told me that this letter finally decided him. At first he tried to shake it off, but he could not—after a brief rest he came back to the task. And he found it a big one. Williamsport was not ready. The delegates at Portland had been led by their enthusiasm, and unable to communicate with the home people had of course acted without instructions. It required earnest effort to bring the Christian people of the place into full and hearty sympathy. But Mr. Cree could act. He secured coöperation, and the city opened its doors and its homes. The convention was a noted gathering. John Wanamaker came from Philadelphia, D. E. Small from York, Shirk and Davenport from Erie, General

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Beaver from Bellefonte, James McCormick from Harrisburg, Ira D. Sankey from New Castle, W. K. Jennings, S. A. Taggart and a large delegation from Pittsburgh and ex-Governor Pollock from the state at large. En route from the West, delegates began an acquaintance to last for their lives. After leaving the main line at Latrobe, they were the occupants practically of a private car. They talked, they sang. Sankey of course was the leader. They learned from him the tune—then new, and now almost always new—to which we sang, ‘There is a fountain filled with blood.’ The first service was in the afternoon, and this hymn was sung. Mr. Wanamaker presided at the evening service and Governor Pollock spoke. Before beginning he asked that they sing again the piece that was sung in the afternoon, and specially suggested ‘that the singing should be led by that same man, who himself sang like a whole congregation.’ Sankey led, and the meeting was on fire.

“Such was the convention at Williamsport, that Mr. Cree had labored for on his knees in his closet and with heart and soul consecration. It always seemed to me like Elijah’s prayer to the God of Heaven—that kind of prayer that never goes unanswered. From this convention the delegates went back home full of the Spirit,

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some stopping on the way to carry the message and the fire to other towns and cities. Hon. John Scott of Huntington, later United States Senator, entertained several from Western Pennsylvania, and lent his influence in his own town in this direction.

“Such was the beginning of real state work in Pennsylvania. Mr. Cree found his hands full. How great a matter a little fire kindleth. Having once begun he could not stop. There came the question as to who should be the leader and guide and counsellor. This led directly, under the continuing care and pilotage of Mr. Cree, to the employment of a state secretary, whose life should be consecrated to ‘this one thing I do,’ and God gave us Samuel A. Taggart—the first secretary employed and devoted to the religious leadership of young men in a state. The Master of us all has blessed the labor of love and guided it to the praise of His own name. But to none of His servants was that blessing more clearly manifested than to our friend, whose memory we would perpetuate. It was spoken of him clearly, as truly as of His servants of old, ‘Them that honor me I will honor.’ ”

As the year 1869 drew to a close, the board of directors of the Pittsburgh Association realized the need of a paid superintendent, as

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it was then customary to call the supervising officer; and feeling able to employ such a man, they were looking about for one suited to the place. Mr. Cree was the person fixed upon; and as he was at the time free from all business engagements and in fullest sympathy with such a line of work, he accepted the call, entering upon the duties of the position February 1, 1870. He retained the position for two years, resigning February 1, 1872, to accept the secretaryship of the United States Indian Commission, at the solicitation of its chairman, his friend, Felix R. Brunot.

We have searched carefully the Pittsburgh Reports for these two years. They are in every way excellent and complete, showing a broad, strong and, for the time, up-to-date work, but the only mention of the secretary's name is in the list of officers. From another source we have the following sidelight:

“When Mr. Cree took charge of the Pittsburgh Association the rooms were removed from 5th Avenue to the corner of Penn Avenue and 6th Street. He inaugurated a definite work for young men, and introduced entertainments, lectures and other social attractions in addition to young men's meetings; also a course of sermons to young men, neighborhood meetings and meetings in charitable institu-

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tions, all of which were quite successful. A daily noon prayer meeting for men was held in the new rooms; on Saturdays the meetings were for Sunday school teachers for the study of the lesson. The finances were well managed from the start, and during Mr. Cree's secretaryship a system was developed that has continued with but little change till the present day, and under which each year has been closed free of debt."

Also, in the Annual Report, for the year ending October 31, 1870, there occurs in the report of the president a paragraph which undoubtedly refers to Mr. Cree, but even this respects the proverbial modesty of the secretary:

"The management of our affairs is vested in its board of directors, whose meetings the past year have been attended more largely than ever before. But the board has always felt that the efficiency of the Association must be in direct proportion to that of its immediate superintendent. They have been thankful, therefore, that their unanimous and hearty invitation to this place was accepted by their present secretary. With a thorough business training that had already secured him success in private business, with bright commercial prospects open before him, he has taken a place

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by no means lucrative, and is performing an amount of work that is amazing, with rare skill and effectiveness. The fervent prayer ascends from many a heart that He who has given us His own unselfish example, will accept this service as rendered unto Him, and reward His servant with infinite riches."

As a fitting close of this chapter on Mr. Cree's work in and from Pittsburgh, the following appreciation from the paper of Mr. Jennings is inserted. Is it not possible that the state of Mr. Cree's health, as referred to in the beginning of this quotation, had something to do with the resignation of the Pittsburgh secretaryship?

"Mr. Cree was never a robust man. As early as 1872, his health began to fail and there were such symptoms of a decline as to cause serious alarm to his friends if not to himself. He was so hopeful and cheerful that no one could feel sure as to what his own opinions on the subject were, but the writer was apprehensive at that time that Mr. Cree would not live a year. However, he lived to a good old age, although it was necessary for him to exercise the utmost care and take frequent vacations to preserve his health.

"He was so unselfish and thoughtful for others that he would often assume burdens

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that he should not have taken. In one of his frequent trips to Europe, his traveling companions, knowing his habit of carrying as much of the baggage as he possibly could, made a secret agreement among themselves to secure the baggage as they approached the end of any journey before he became aware of it. After several ineffectual attempts on his part to act as porter for the party, he finally became aware of the concerted scheme and yielded as gracefully as he could. Mr. R. C. Morse is authority for this statement.

“He was possessed of unbounded energy, and by his diligence and concentration of mind on his work, he overcame in a large measure the obstacles occasioned by his chronic ill health. If it were possible to catalogue the results of all his labors, it would appear to be a great accomplishment for one of large physical as well as mental vigor. He was a man of unusual ability, endowed by nature with a cheerful, hopeful, optimistic mind, a kind, gentle, affectionate disposition and an agreeable, cordial and winning personality. These qualities gave him a wide and extended field of influence; and when we add to these his business ability, his thorough familiarity with the history and opportunities of Association work, his constant Bible study, his sincere

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piety and his consecration to the cause which absorbed his best powers of mind and heart, we can readily understand the high estimation in which he was held, the usefulness of his career and the success which crowned his efforts.

“His life was a wonderful illustration of the transforming power of the gospel. He was in the world and yet not of it. He knew the world and yet was not worldly, and he combined the best qualities of a man of affairs with the singleness of heart and earnestness of purpose of one whose citizenship was not of this world. No man ever doubted his integrity or his sincerity, and no one was long in association with him without feeling the influence of his strong spiritual life. Having put his hand to the plough he never looked back. There was no wavering or hesitation in his course. Like the beloved Apostle Paul, with his face constantly looking forward, he pressed toward the mark, and we doubt not has obtained the prize. The world is the better for his work. The Association which he loved with an abiding and unfailing affection was greatly strengthened by his service, and our blessed Lord was glorified in his noble, unselfish, consecrated life.”

VI. THE INDIAN COMMISSION

Felix R. Brunot—Cree appointed secretary—Official trips—
“Buy a farm in the Willamette”—Yellowstone Park—
A unique horseback journey—An adventure in Lead-
ville—Resting at Clifton Springs—Resigns from the
Commission—Hard to decide.

WITH the dissolution of the firm of Cree Brothers, the commercial business life of Thomas K. Cree came to an end. In the latter part of 1869 he became connected with the Pittsburgh Young Men's Christian Association as general secretary, which continued through 1870 and 1871, as has been told in the previous chapter. Through his business, social and religious interests in Pittsburgh, Mr. Cree became acquainted with a class of prominent men, many of whom became his lifelong friends, and some rendered him great service in his subsequent career; among these Mr. Felix R. Brunot stood preëminent.

President Grant, during his early years as an army officer in the West, had been so impressed with the injustice done the Indian that when he was given the power as President to correct some of the abuses, he attempted to do so; one of his early acts was to create a Commission which should exercise joint control with the Secretary of the Interior over the

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Indian maintenance appropriations. This Commission, authorized by act of Congress, was to be composed of not more than ten persons, to be selected by the President from men eminent for their philanthropy, and to serve without compensation. Felix R. Brunot was made chairman of the Commission.

During the summer and fall of 1871, Mr. Cree accompanied Mr. Brunot on a trip through the West, visiting different Indian agencies and most of the large cities, and acting as secretary of the Commission; so when Mr. Colyer, the first secretary, resigned in January, 1872, Mr. Cree was asked to accept the position.

The history of the Indian Commission was written in full by Mr. Cree for publication in the Life of Mr. Brunot, although, with characteristic modesty, Mr. Cree takes small credit to himself for the important work he did in connection with the enterprise. The other members of the Commission gave only a portion of their time; Mr. Cree, the only salaried man, gave his full time and thought. He did the hard detail work, and had a large hand in the management and carrying out of the policy of the Commission; he was fully in accord with the chairman, and Mr. Brunot in turn relied implicitly upon him for the execution of his policies.

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The secretary had to bear much of the brunt of the struggle with grafting contractors, greedy politicians, and indifferent office-holders who controlled Indian matters, through all of whom Indian affairs had been for years a scandal to the government, and whose plans were upset by the methods of the Commission. So efficient was he that his removal was sought by the politicians, who recognized both his skill and his fidelity. It was a hard fight; and although political power and corruption finally ousted the Commission, its efforts left an influence on the conduct of Indian affairs that has been lasting. A number of items connected with this period of Mr. Cree's life are given here as being of more or less interest.

During his trip to the Puget Sound country with Mr. Brunot's party in 1871, he was much impressed with the wonderful possibilities of the country for agricultural purposes, promises which have since been abundantly fulfilled. James Cree, then in Meadville, in addition to his mercantile business, was interested in farming, and to him Thomas writes:

Pacific Ocean, Sept. 2, 1871.

My Dear Bro. Jim:

If you want to farm, come out to Oregon, and I might be tempted to go in with you. Carry on two

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branches of it. Buy a wheat farm in the Willamette, where from 40 to 60 bushels of wheat can be raised to the acre, and where 20 years will not crop it out. A farm can be bought in the valley, where inside of two years a railroad to Portland will be built, and the P. R. R. will run right through it, and where wheat today is worth \$1.20 per bushel. Then the other branch is to buy a lot of cows and a ranch on the Yakima, and go into stock raising. Cattle run year in, year out, without a bit of feeding, and never require any shelter other than that they can find themselves. Grass grows ten feet high, giving them good pasture and shelter in it. Yet 2-yr. old cattle sell for \$30, three yr.-olds, \$40, and they increase very rapidly; 100 cows in five years give a herd of 1000. Then the N. P. R. R. will be through that country in 3 to 5 years sure, and will give an Eastern market.

Fruits of fine quality grow all through the Willamette, and up the Columbia; large quantities are raised. A farm can be bought in the valley, say 320 acres and improvements, at \$20 per acre. Within 3 years it will sell for double that. A ranch can be bought in the Yakima for \$1000 and one is ready for work. Everybody makes lots of money at it.

How does Meadville farming compare with this? Your fancy stock and fancy farming would come in play nicely.

Afft. Your Bro.

TOM.

While returning from this trip, Mr. Cree was in Chicago at the time of the great fire. The

The Indian Commission

hotel where he was staying was burned and with it all his baggage except the little he carried in his hands. The party considered themselves very fortunate to escape safely from the city.

In 1872, while waiting for the Indians of the Shoshone tribe to come to a meeting, Mr. Cree's party visited the Yellowstone National Park. It was not so well known at that time, and in fact they were among the first white men to visit the place. In correspondence with the *Pittsburgh Chronicle*, he gives a glowing description of the natural beauties of this wonderful district. At that time no survey of the Park had been made, and no report of it had been previously published. His knowledge of the topography of the Yellowstone country was highly considered at that time, as is shown by the following letter:

Jay Cooke & Co.
Financial Agents of the
Northern Pacific Railroad Company,

Philadelphia, July 1, 1873.

Thomas K. Cree, Esq.

Sec'y Indian Commission.

Dear Sir:

Your favor from Cheyenne of the 24th recd. during my absence. Thank you very much for its contents.

Thomas Kirby Cree

I hope when you get back from Yellowstone Park, you will write me your views and impressions. I sh'd like to know also, whether, if the Northern Pacific pushes its work by water and rail up to, say, the mouth of Shields River, where the Yellowstone turns southerly, it w'd be practicable to put a narrow gauge road down to the Park, or whether a better entrance c'd be made by way of the Madison River? Also give me your opinion as to whether the Park is accessible by southern roads, or as readily accessible as by the Northern Pacific?

Very truly your friend,

JAY COOKE,
(Per S. W. White).

It would seem probable that if the information asked for, which is most rudimentary with regard to the route of a railroad, were available from any other source, the authorities of the Northern Pacific road, which was then being built through that country, would have had it, rather than to depend on the opinion of a man who was not an expert either with regard to engineering or railroading.

When it was proposed to obtain for settlement some land from the Ute tribe of Indians in 1873, Mr. Cree, in company with seven head men of as many different bands, visited and inspected the lands which it was proposed to

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cede. The journey was made on horseback, and occupied eight days of hard riding. It was through a country where neither whites nor Indians lived, and even the Indians seldom visited it. There were no roads most of the way, and the party slept in the open, without tents or other shelter. Part of the time it rained in the valleys and snowed in the higher altitudes, and running water froze beside the camp in September. The provisions and blankets were frequently soaked with water, and at night the party were obliged to sleep in wet clothing and wet blankets after eating water-soaked food. The entire journey was on the reservation, at an altitude of more than 8500 feet, in a region where there is frost every month of the year. Crossing the highest range, at an altitude of some 14,000 feet, a road that had been made into the valley was so steep that teams traveled in sets of four, and thirty-two mules, the entire outfit, would be attached to each wagon in turn as the ascent was made, and it was a four days' journey to cover the distance of eight or ten miles over the range.

Among the unique experiences during Mr. Cree's journeys through the West was the following, which occurred while he was visiting in Leadville, Colo. Calling on the Presbyterian pastor, he found him absent, and while

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waiting he saw from the window two men engaged in a quarrel. The men proved to have been strangers to each other, one being in a sleigh and the other on foot. He saw the first get out of the sleigh, go behind his horses and deliberately fire at the other man. Mr. Cree, who was about a hundred yards away, rushed over to the man who had been shot and was lying on his face in the snow. As he stooped over him, the murderer cried, "Let that man alone"; and as he stood pistol in hand and looking as if he meant what he said, Mr. Cree obeyed. As a policeman came up, "There is that man's pistol, I want you to see that it is cocked"; and when the policeman had made the investigation—"Now you may turn him over."

In January, 1872, Mr. Cree was forced to go to Clifton Springs on account of poor health; but a month later he was back in Washington and at work, and during the summer and fall he was on a trip through the Indian country with Mr. Brunot. They made treaties with the Crows and the Shoshones and traveled extensively over that part of the Indian lands, the trip lasting over three months. In March, 1873, he went West again, returning to New York in time for the meeting of the Board in May. During this meeting, which was well

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written up by the New York papers, the *Daily Graphic* gave this description of Mr. Cree:

The secretary, Mr. Thomas K. Cree, is the youngest and best looking of the party. He is of medium height and build, has dark hair, mustache and side whiskers, and a pleasant, bright face. He was formerly a business man in Pittsburgh, but at present has his office in Washington. He has traveled thousands of miles through the Indian country, and has had great experience among the Indian tribes. A look at his face confirms the report, that his is a leading mind in the commission.

Early the following July he again went West, remaining about two months; he visited the Yellowstone Park again and the agencies in that vicinity on the business of the Commission, returning East in August. He continued in his position of secretary of the Indian Commission until July, 1874, doing his utmost to secure an honest and straightforward administration of the affairs of the Indian Bureau. One of the important duties of the Board was that of auditing all bills for the Bureau, amounting to several millions annually, and making recommendations as to the approval or disapproval of these bills. By the terms of the Act of Congress appointing the Board it was given joint control with the Secretary of

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the Interior over the disbursements. But by certain official manipulation, well understood in departmental politics, the provision for joint control was made a dead letter; in spite of the Commission's protests, its recommendations were disregarded, fraudulent contracts were given, and the appropriations were unlawfully spent. The hands of the Commission were tied, so that it was impossible to remedy the matter. Affairs finally became so bad that, after six years of faithful service, when their last urgent protests were disregarded, the entire original Board resigned.

In accepting Mr. Cree's resignation, the chairman of the Commission wrote:

Pittsburgh, 30th May, 1874.

Dear Sir:

. . . . I desire to express for myself and all my colleagues, our great satisfaction with the efficient manner in which all your duties have been performed, and the regret with which we allow our official relations to terminate. But for the termination of my own connection with the Board, I would endeavor to prevail upon you to withdraw your resignation.

Very respectfully,

Your Obed't Serv't

FELIX R. BRUNOT,
Chairman.

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Mr. Cree did not lose interest in Indian affairs after his resignation, but continued to work for their best good by articles written for the press and by personal letters and interviews with men of influence. His intimate knowledge of the conditions of the different tribes of Indians and of the entire subject, including the methods of the Interior Department, made him an expert authority, and his information and criticisms were of great value. He was later offered a position in the Indian Bureau by the Secretary of the Interior, but declined it.

It is not known just when Mr. Cree decided definitely to go back to the Association work. Upon resigning from the Indian Commission, the same question must have come up that had occupied him in 1869, but probably with different limitations, for it is thought that at this time there was no question as to any ordinary business life. Whatever occupation he now took up, it should be a religious one. He attended the annual convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States and British provinces at Dayton, Ohio, in June, 1874, and the Sunday School Assembly at Chautauqua in August, and the convention of the Associations of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia in September of the same year. In

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October he was offered the position of business manager of the *Sunday School Times*, with a share in the profits, which would have paid him better than any salary he had yet received, and it was with great difficulty that he came to a decision. To a friend he wrote that he had summed up the advantages and disadvantages of the two, hoping thus to be better able to decide. We still have his memoranda of the two opportunities:

For Philadelphia:

- a. A salary of \$1500 and one fourth interest, probably at least \$2500 more—\$4000—with a still larger amt. in prospective.
- b. Same as the above with a guarantee of \$2000 per year sure.
- c. A salary of \$3000 per year with an engagement for three years if desired.
- d. An arrangement for six months at \$2000 per year and one fourth interest.
- e. In addition to any of the above, all expenses when traveling on Sunday school business.
1. A wide field of usefulness in Sunday school work.
2. A favorable introduction to Sunday school circles as the business manager of the *Sunday School Times*.
3. Facilities for attending upon and being useful in conventions and meetings in the interest of Sunday schools.

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4. Opportunities for awakening an interest in Sunday school work in the South and through it a general awakening in Christian effort.
5. Growth with the growing Sunday school work, and the ability to be more useful in it in the future from the experience gained through the *Times* and Sunday school men, meetings and literature.
6. Opportunities to work in Sunday school, Church and Association in Philadelphia with workers whom I know, and from whom I could learn much that would be useful.
7. A pleasant city to live in and pleasant business connections.
8. Ability to give of my means to help in good works.

For Washington :

- a. Not a cent of pay present or prospective.
- b. No business promise present or prospective.
- c. Little ability to give to good works.
1. Carry on the work at Bethany, for which God seems to have specially fitted me, and which he has blessed under my personal management, and which has never been successful under any other, and for which no one else seems fitted.
2. Conduct my Bible class, which under me was a success, and which failed under everybody else, and from which several scholars have come into the church, and many others into

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the Sunday school work, and into which have just come some not Christian, whom I believe with God's blessing I could lead to Him; and those who are Christians in the class are growing in Christian grace under my teaching.

3. Work in the Young Men's Christian Association, especially in the finance committee in which I am looked up to as a leader; an ability to manage the finances in which department the Association seems weakest, and few seem to realize the danger of bad financial management unless it is kept prominently before them, which duty seems to have fallen upon me.
4. A winter of comparative leisure in which to study God's word and prepare for future usefulness.
5. A prospective tour through the South with Geo. A. Hall in February, and the hope for a wonderful blessing upon it.
6. A circle of teachers, inexperienced but willing to work, who look to me as a leader, and who are growing in ability to do good work for the Master.
7. An influence in the Bethany district that no one else has, and the ability to do good there possessed by no other person.
8. The confidence of the N. Y. Ave. Church and in Christian, business and official circles,

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and the *backing* I need in any proper good work I may undertake.

9. The future of Bethany, which from a little work may under God's blessing grow to grand proportions.

Mr. Cree finally decided to decline the offer. From the memoranda will be seen the importance which he attached to his work in connection with Bethany Mission Sunday school, which he had established in what was then known as the "Murder Bay" district of Washington, one of the slums of the city, the mission being under the care of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, of which he was then a member. It was with regret that he gave up this work, as he was forced to do when finally leaving Washington to undertake Christian Association work with the International Committee.

In February, 1875, in company with General Secretary George A. Hall, of the Washington Young Men's Christian Association, Mr. Cree gave three months to the first of several trips to cities of the South in the interest of Association work, ending by being present at the International Convention in Richmond, where the thanks of the convention were tendered him for "Without compensation, giving three

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months of valuable time during the past winter to the work in the South." Later in the year, he became definitely identified with the Association work as a secretary of the International Committee; his work in the South, and that done in connection with Moody and Sankey will be told in other chapters. The following letter is given to show Mr. Cree's connection with the bringing together of the two most noted gospel evangelists of his generation:

New Castle, Pa.

Aug. 25, / '75.

Dear Bro. Cree:

Thank you for your kind letter. I would like to see you very much. I have often said, "But for T. K. Cree, I might never have gone to Indianapolis, where Moody and I got together." In eternity you will see you have had a hand in the good work.

Yours truly,

IRA D. SANKEY.



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1876

VII. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Morse's Introduction—The call declined—Later acceptance—Hall and Cree in the South—Page from a notebook—With Moody and Sankey—Traveling secretary—McBurney's estimate—Notes from the field—Mr. Morse's Appreciation—The last report.

FOR nearly fifteen years after the affiliation of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States and Canada, at the Buffalo convention of 1854, there was no employed officer of the Central Committee, whatever there was of supervisory correspondence or visitation being done by the members of the Committee, or by volunteers under their direction. In 1868 Robert Weidensall was employed for special work in the West. The following year the present general secretary, Richard C. Morse, was employed, but for the first two years his work was that of an editor rather than an executive officer. We will let Mr. Morse tell in his reminiscient sketch of the finding and employment of Mr. Cree:

“My acquaintance with Mr. Cree by correspondence began during the month of

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December, 1869, and was continued both by correspondence and personal intercourse until his death in 1912. His first letters, in December, 1869, came to me as editor of the Committee's periodical, *The Association Monthly*, in which he reported from Pittsburgh the work of the Association in that city, and also the recent Pennsylvania state convention at Williamsport—held in November, 1869—an extraordinary meeting, marking the beginning of the Pennsylvania state work. There Mr. Cree had been a leading delegate and became chairman of the Pennsylvania State Committee. In that office and as secretary at Pittsburgh he proved himself to be one of the most efficient among the Association workers and leaders of that period.

“Accordingly, when the International Convention was held in 1870, Mr. Cree was one of the well-known, prominent delegates. It was my first International gathering, but he had attended the two previous meetings, of 1868 and 1869, and from attendance upon these he had returned to Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania to become the leader in local and state work. We became good friends from that first meeting. He was interested in my work as editor of the *Monthly*, and toward the close of the following year (1871), when it seemed desir-

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able to the Committee and its editor to secure a publisher who should release the editor to editorial work, in seeking for an Association leader who was also a man of executive business efficiency, it was agreed to ask Mr. Cree to come to New York and take this position. The negotiation was unsuccessful. Mr. Cree did not feel that he could undertake the task, and the Committee not being successful in securing a substitute for him, the editor resigned his position on the *Monthly* and devoted himself wholly to the work of the Committee as its secretary."

As is known, Mr. Cree left the Pittsburgh Association secretaryship after a term of two years, to serve as secretary of the Board of Indian Commissioners, taking up his residence in the city of Washington. After resigning from this position, in 1874, putting aside several flattering business offers, he decided definitely to give his life to some kind of Christian work.

While residing in Washington he had been actively affiliated with the city Association, as a close friend and efficient helper of George A. Hall, the general secretary. At Mr. Hall's solicitation he became a member of the board of directors and of the finance committee. At that early day many secretaries prided them-

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selves on having nothing to do with the Association finances, and the finances of the Washington Association, particularly those connected with the new building, were in a terrible condition. We can imagine the zeal with which Mr. Cree took hold of the situation, bringing order out of chaos.

For several winters the Washington Association had given its general secretary leave of absence for an evangelistic tour of the leading cities of the South, a work for which he possessed special qualifications. On his second tour, during the winter of 1875, Mr. Cree was at liberty and at Mr. Hall's earnest entreaty accompanied him. His wonderful aptitude for business management as exemplified on this trip, and his success as a personal religious worker, coupled with his previous experience in Pittsburgh and with the Pennsylvania state work, made the International Committee exceedingly anxious to secure his services as a permanent associate of its general secretary, who was now overburdened with the rapidly increasing duties of his position. At this time the effort was successful; for after prayerful deliberation, and we doubt not following the leadings of the Holy Spirit, Mr. Cree accepted.

This was early in 1876. But for the following two winters Mr. Cree was delegated to

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accompany Mr. Hall on his Southern tours; these, while retaining their thoroughly evangelistic character, were also made to contribute to the organization and building up of the Association work—the evangelists made their efforts tell more directly in the interests of young men. The following extract from Mr. Cree's account of his first trip is from Warburton's Memorial of George A. Hall and gives a graphic illustration of the Hall-Cree work on these Southern tours:

We left Washington February 11, 1875, on a bitter cold night and went to Augusta, Georgia. There we attended the first state convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations of Georgia. The coming of two Yankee strangers was not looked upon with very great favor by many of those in attendance. However, there were others that gave us a hearty welcome, and the convention, which lasted three or four days, was a successful one and is a pleasant memory. There were but four Associations in the state, and none of them amounted to anything more than a small meeting of young men. These and unorganized towns sent twenty-seven delegates. Association work as it existed at that day was presented, Bible readings were given, and song services and gospel meetings were held. The convention developed into a magnificent revival. We remained a few days after the close of the con-

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vention and held meetings which were largely attended, and on some occasions a large proportion of the audience remained as inquirers. The spiritual life of many Christians was quickened and many persons were converted. An interest in Bible study was developed and the gospel songs captured the city. We had with us five hundred copies of "Winnowed Hymns," prepared by P. P. Bliss, the sweet singer and song writer of that day. They were packed in a large valise which we carried as hand luggage. These were the first gospel hymns known generally in the South, and two hundred of them were quietly carried off in Augusta. A few weeks afterwards more than one thousand copies of the book were sold by the local dealers. A month later we returned and held meetings for three days. Toward the close of the tour I returned to Augusta for a short visit and attended a gospel meeting in a church in the outskirts of the city. The pastor said: "I have carried on these meetings unaided since you were first here, and I am compelled to close them tonight, as I cannot stand the strain any longer; but you will think when you come to close the meeting tonight that they are just beginning." I preached for him, and when after the sermon he asked those who wished to accept Christ to come forward, some seventy-five responded to the invitation. On Sunday I attended a communion service at another church at which nearly one hundred adults were admitted to membership, all the ingathering of the revival that began with the convention meetings.

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These three Southern tours, treated here it may appear rather as episodes, were vastly important both as parts of Mr. Cree's life and experience and in their far-reaching local results. They had, too, a significant bearing on Mr. Cree's work as an International secretary; they gave him a knowledge of the South, and an acquaintance with many of its leading Christian men, facts that were of great advantage to him in subsequent years.

Another tangential departure occurring during this same period was his work in connection with the Moody and Sankey evangelistic meetings, especially in Philadelphia, Chicago and San Francisco, work for which the International Committee released him at the urgent solicitation of Mr. Moody, who seemed to feel that his business and organizing efficiency was an essential factor in these big city campaigns. The following appreciative letter from Hon. John Wanamaker is a bright sidelight on Mr. Cree's work of this kind:

From an early acquaintance with Thomas K. Cree, I invited him to come into my business at its initial stage. He was then debating whether he would go on in business or devote himself to Christian work. He was wise enough to have the larger vision of laying up treasure in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not

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break through nor steal. He was content with a very moderate income, seeing that almost all the great store of compensation would be in the harvesting at the last day, when the earth had passed away.

When I saw Mr. Moody in London and urged him to come to Philadelphia for his first meetings in America, he had already made a quasi engagement with the Brooklyn brethren; but after a few weeks there he came to Philadelphia, the meetings filling the old freight station of the Pennsylvania Railroad, which had just been purchased for store purposes.

Mr. Cree was secretary of the committee and George H. Stuart was its chairman, and the three of us practically had charge of all the arrangements and administration of the meetings, which were the largest ever held by Mr. Moody in the United States. Mr. Cree was kindly and considerate, without having the enthusiasm that Mr. Stuart and others had; but he more than weighed down his side of the scales when we were all put together as active workers, because of his thoroughness, industry and devotion to detail.

He was a prayerful man and very much of his labor was prayer; and perhaps to him more than to any one person was due the fine and almost perfect organization of the great evangelistic meetings.

Mr. Cree's talents in these directions attracted the attention of the International Committee, and they were fortunate in finding him the willing servant in their ranks.

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I saw Mr. Cree infrequently during the later years, but there was always a warmth and sweetness and sense of self-sacrifice and devotion to the Master's work, which increased my admiration and affection for him to the last. He was a man of the Robert McBurney type, who never knew what it was to be tired until his work was done.

We will now let Mr. Morse resume the thread of his story:

“Meanwhile Mr. Cree took hold of the work of the International Committee with a strong hand. The same abilities he had shown in business life and in the administration of the Indian Commission, and in state and local work in Pennsylvania, he now employed as an International secretary in developing the city and state work of the Association in his broader field.

“Owing to his efficient labors city Associations were led to secure the money needed to employ secretaries, and then later to secure the men needed. This work was done in that period of Association growth when, beginning with the larger cities, boards of directors began to see clearly that with a good secretary money could be secured both for current expenses and Association buildings which was inaccessible to an Association that depended for its efficiency wholly on a band of volunteer workers.

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Equally true was it of the state organizations that they had equal need of the state secretary. Mr. Cree knew what was essential to business efficiency, and as a successful business man he laid hold of what was necessary to efficiency in the Association work and its administration. He was the guide not only of directors in securing secretaries, but also of the new secretary in making his work efficient and in defining that work accurately and successfully.

“It is difficult to exaggerate the value of the patient, indefatigable work of Mr. Cree during those formative years of the North American Young Men’s Christian Associations and their work. A fine description of his efficiency in these directions was given by Mr. McBurney on the platform of the Convention of 1881, where Mr. Cree was unable to be present owing to the fact that he was on the Pacific Coast, in San Francisco, doing for that city in the rescue and building up of its Association, what he had already done since 1875 for many other Associations, in the East, the North and the South:

“Mr. Cree is one who goes to the root of things. The president of a Young Men’s Christian Association said that Mr. Cree after having been twenty-four hours in his city (and the Association had

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existed there for over twenty years) knew more about the Association than any member of it. The Association was not in good condition. Ministers had not very much confidence in it. It had been engaged in a kind of work that did not command their confidence. The support of churches and the Christian people was being withheld. The city was an important one. When Mr. Cree went through the records and books he discovered the names of the donors who had given to the support of the Association. Each one of these men he sought and explained to each the work of the Association. But they said, that work has not been done here. Very true, he answered, but you could have done it by sustaining a general secretary and carrying on aggressive work for young men. We admit it, they replied. The result was that in that city in a short time, through Mr. Cree's agency, money enough was secured to pay the debt. All the old friends were recovered; a competent secretary was placed in charge; young men are being reached and saved in that city, and the influence of the Association is felt in all the surrounding country.

"I know of an Association that had a building. They were in debt and had a heavy mortgage on the building. That mortgage was to be foreclosed. Mr. Cree was sent to the city. As a result of his work the building was saved, a secretary placed in the field and good Christian work is being carried on.

"These are not the only qualities he possesses. He leads gospel meetings in the places he visits. He

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seeks to bring young men to the Lord Jesus Christ. There were thirteen secretaries placed in Associations in the South mainly through his labors. And this year the San Francisco Association has been reorganized owing in part to his persistent effort, and its building has been relieved of the crushing debt of \$83,000."

At this point are inserted a few pages from one of Mr. Cree's journals as a traveling secretary. His notes not only give an idea of his conservation of time in traveling, and of his thorough methods of investigation, but show the vivid contrast between those days and the present regarding everything Associational. This was in the late seventies, and so much time has elapsed that no offence can be given by the use of names of persons and places:

February 19. Wednesday. Left New York at 6 p.m.

February 20. Thursday. Arrived at Pittsburgh 8.30 a.m. Saw Taggart (state secretary) and had a talk about Penn. state work, of which he gives a good report. Also saw Mr. Orr (general secretary) and spent some time in Association rooms. Work in Pittsburgh doing well. Left at midnight.

February 21. Friday. Arrived Indianapolis 2 p.m. Called at R. R. Association rooms. Mr. Cobb out of city; gentleman in charge gave encouraging report of R. R. work. Called at Association building,

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found it all shut up, Mr. Horton out of city. Called at Dr. Munhall's home but did not find him. The Association owns a building, once valued at \$70,000, now worth \$35,000 to \$40,000, on which there is a debt of some \$5,000, with interest charge of some \$450 per year. Income from rents, etc., has come down from \$3,500 per year to about \$1,500 above taxes, etc. About \$800 floating debt has been accumulating for half a dozen years, and six months ago it was decided to close the rooms, discharge the secretary and rent out the gymnasium and bath rooms until the debt was paid off. No Association meetings are held except a Sunday night meeting which is small. A Sunday school has the chapel Sunday. Association is doing nothing. Saw the president, the former president and the (recording) secretary and had a pleasant talk with each over the importance of resuming work with a general secretary and rooms.

February 22. Saturday. Arrived at Nashville 8.10 p.m. An Association concert prevented a meeting. Arranged for one for Sunday. Spoke at 11 a.m. to the young men at Fisk University, about 75, on college work. They propose to organize an Association. At 4 o'clock a meeting for members at the rooms; good attendance. The best Association meeting we ever held in Nashville. Much interest evinced by those present in the work for young men. The Nashville Association has the use of the state library and building free of rent. Have two hundred subscribers to library at \$5 and about 150 members of

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Association. Have no young men's meeting or Bible class, and no meetings at rooms. Have occasional sociables. Not doing much for young men. General secretary gives all his attention to the library and seems to know but little about our work. . . . At 7 p.m. went to Fisk University; hall full; spoke on "Watchman"; a good meeting; a dozen came forward as inquirers.

February 24. Monday. Left 8 a.m. for Montgomery, arriving at 8.20 p.m. Met Chandler and others at hotel. Had free interchange of views in regard to previous visit. Found result of meeting a year ago that the Association was still alive, 15 having kept their promise to stand by it.

February 25. Tuesday. Left Montgomery at 7 a.m. for Columbus; arrived at 10:30. Called on Rev. Hall (a local pastor), got names of some 20 persons interested in old Association, called on each of them alone, presented Association work. Tried to get a conference in evening but failed; Rev. Hall sick; minstrels and other reasons prevented young men coming. Prayer meetings Wednesday and Thursday prevented meetings these nights, so decided not to try for it. Found all impressed with need of Association but the difficulties in old one came in the way. It had been organized as result of our meetings five years ago, was very active in general religious work, the most prominent young men in the city being in charge of it. The ministers opposed it on account of its religious activity, misdirected as they thought, and Association was aban-

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done. Think time has not come to reorganize. Gave article to paper.

February 26. Wednesday. Arrived at Macon 5 p.m. Hunted up president of Association; found it had disbanded. Organization was effected as result of meetings held by Hall and myself, in which there was no union, no two denominations going together; Methodist and Baptist churches each in sympathy with meetings only when held in their own churches. Association had been fairly active, holding outdoor and other meetings, having rooms and some little attempt at social work. The Presbyterian pastor was openly opposed to it and from the pulpit took exception to it; the Baptist ministers secretly opposed it, and the Methodist ministers were negative; so it was disbanded, having no support from any church. The workers were leading young men of the city, representing all the denominations. Called upon many of these who had been active in the work, found all expressing much interest and great regret that it had been disbanded, but could not advise a reorganization with all the churches opposed to it.

Called upon President Buttle of Mercer College and presented college Association work; arranged to meet students in evening. At 7 o'clock met 40 or 50 in the chapel and presented the work in colleges, urged them to organize, left documents. Had personal conversation with a number after the meeting.

February 28. Friday. Arrived at Atlanta noon.

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Spent afternoon in conversation with Heygood, Echford and Brown. Decided a secretary was needed but that nothing could be done now—the Library and Home each being out soliciting money. Intended to leave Saturday morning but decided to stay. Attended a Sunday school meeting Friday night. Saturday arranged for meeting Sunday night in 1st Baptist church with Jacobs. Attended Sunday school meeting Saturday afternoon. Sunday led meeting at hall at 4 o'clock, attendance small, subject "Ambassadors," spoke of world's convention. A large meeting Sunday night; spoke on Association work briefly at opening; Jacobs followed. At close note read, gentleman would become life member of Association. Got few together, arranged for meeting Monday a.m. at which it was decided to try for \$1000. It looked like a great undertaking; spent four days, found people interested, newspapers took it up, and got \$1200; could easily have gotten more.

Mr. Morse continues:

"For years Mr. Cree kept on with these labors indefatigably and to the overtaking of his strength, so that at last, about the year 1898, what strength he had left was unequal to the tasking labors required to investigate and rescue Associations and their workers in need of both investigation and rescue. But while his strength was unequal to this work

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which he had performed so efficiently as traveling secretary, he was able as an office secretary quietly, methodically and effectively to enlist by correspondence givers to the work of the International Committee—that work which he had so successfully carried on and which his successors following in his steps were accomplishing for the Associations in the multiplying departments of their activity.

“He continued in the office of the Committee for fifteen more years, steadily increasing the amount of the financial resources which came to the Committee as a result of his efforts. Slowly his strength and vital force diminished, and during the year before his death he felt constrained to withdraw from the steady office work which in its turn was now overtaking his strength as an elderly man.”

At this point is inserted a personal appreciation of Mr. Cree with which Mr. Morse closes his sketch, although certain phases of Mr. Cree's work are treated later in the text:

“During all these years of his major and minor activity the priceless privilege was granted to me of closest, friendliest coöperation with Mr. Cree as an intimate associate. At the beginning, and for some years, he was as much the general secretary of the Committee as I was, and when my connection with

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the office and administration of the work as a whole became emphasized, the valuation of his work in the field as traveling secretary steadily increased. But the intimate friendship was only deepened as the years went by.

“A genial, bright vein of humor was one of the charming features of my friend. The better you knew him the more this sparkling feature of his character was discerned, in his correspondence and in the intercourse of an intimate friendship. It made life pleasant to him and to those associated with him. He was good company in travel, for good humor and rare good temper were most happily combined in him. These, and his other fine, attractive personal qualities, were permeated and crowned by what was to me always the dominant feature of his character and life—his living faith in Jesus Christ as his God and Saviour. It was a strong, intelligent, evangelical faith, accepting the Word of God as infallible guide and getting practical, winning expression in his correspondence and work, whatever that correspondence and work might be concerned with.

“His religion was never divorced from his life, nor his life from his religion. He gave one the impression of this happy combination in all his intercourse, official and unofficial, in business, in work and in play. This fine con-

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sistency won an ever increasing respect and affection.”

A fit ending to an account of Mr. Cree's work in the International office during his later years may be seen in the following report, with the letter accompanying it:

New York, September 23, 1911.

Dear Mr. Morse:

In the October number of *Association Men* you will note that after thirty-five years of service as a secretary of the International Committee, I have resigned. It took effect September first, but I will not turn over my financial work to a successor until December 31st.

I look back upon my thirty-five years of service with great pleasure. I have never had an unpleasant incident occur with the Committee or any of its secretaries, and I have always felt that I have received more credit for the work that I have done than I really deserved. That you may not think I am retiring because my work is “running down,” I inclose a financial report for 1910, and so far this year the result has been as satisfactory. In looking at the figures you will remember that the last half dozen years, I was at the office but eight months out of the twelve, so I have been gradually retiring.

While I shall continue my interest in the Committee and its work, and will be continued on its list nominally as a secretary, I purpose enlarging my

Thomas Kirby Cree

service as a volunteer along other lines of Christian service in civic and social directions.

I expect to be at the annual meetings at Silver Bay and from time to time at the office.

Very sincerely yours,

THOMAS K. CREE.

REPORT OF THOMAS K. CREE FOR 1910

Received from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1910	\$30,034
Received from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1909	28,508
	<hr/>
A gain for 1910 of	\$ 1,526
I received from 2,177 renewals who gave in 1909	\$25,693
I received from 178 new contributors \$ 783	
I received from 255 who did not give in 1909 but gave in earlier years 1,443	
	<hr/>
A total of practically new money	2,226
	<hr/>
	\$27,919
I received from 104 contributors to the Geneva Committee	2,115
	<hr/>
Total for the year	\$30,034

The International Committee

MISCELLANEOUS

Number of givers in 1911, 2,385, an average from each of	\$ 13
Received during four months of vacation	3,148
Total number of names on renewal lists	3,836
Number who gave \$5.00 or less	1,367
Number who died in 1910	60

Received January 1 to December 31, 1899	\$19,323
“ “ “ 1900	21,133
“ “ “ 1901	21,639
“ “ “ 1902	21,864
“ “ “ 1903	24,373
“ “ “ 1904	22,410
“ “ “ 1905	25,084
“ “ “ 1906	28,663
“ “ “ 1907	28,097
“ “ “ 1908	27,910
“ “ “ 1909	28,508
“ “ “ 1910	30,034

In 1906 I had a special gift, which is not included in above, of 3,000

Making a total for 12 years of \$302,038

About the same time I received a special gift for college buildings of \$20,000
 In 1910 there was a gain over 1909 of 1,526

In 1910 there was a gain over 1899 of \$10,711, a gain of 60 per cent.

VIII. ASSOCIATION WORK ABROAD

James Stokes—Cree in Paris—Some French estimates—Mr. Gaylord's Appreciation—Cree and the World's Conference—A comprehensive report—Among the Swiss mountains.

SOMETHING has been said with regard to Mr. Cree's work with Mr. Hall in the South, and the important part he shared in connection with Mr. Moody's evangelistic campaigns in the large cities; but Mr. Cree was a foreign missionary as well. James Stokes of New York had occasion to spend considerable time abroad, and having been actively interested in the work of the New York City Association he was led to undertake helpful effort in behalf of the Paris organization; he desired to bring its work into accord with the more modern and broader type known in this country, believing that thus it would become much more effective in reaching and uplifting the young men of the French metropolis. We prefer to let the following letters tell, as sidelights, the story of Mr. Cree in Paris; three of these were secured by Count Pourtales, president of the Paris Association, in lieu of anything of his own, as he came into the work subsequent to the visits of Mr. Cree:

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Mr. Thomas K. Cree represented Mr. Stokes in the affairs of the Association in Paris, and in the securing of (1) The quarters at 4 Faubourg Montmartre in 1888, and (2) The property at 14 Rue de Trevisé in 1892.

His first visit to Paris for this purpose was in November, 1888. He remained from August to October, 1889, and from June, 1890, to February, 1891.

Thanks to his efforts and the assistance of Mr. Franklin Gaylord, the Association in Paris adopted its regular Constitution—broader than that which was used in the Associations in France and opening the admission to the Association in Paris to a larger number of young men. It was he who brought American methods and showed their application.

His efforts in finding money necessary for this transformation were indefatigable and the results obtained were witnessed by the following: The annual subscription which before 1888 was about six thousand francs was raised in 1889-90-91 to thirty-two thousand francs.

Studying out the construction of the building for the Association in Paris was his great work. His examination of sites and working out of the plans of a building with all the desirable features determined the form of the Association in Paris.

Mr. Cree did not favor the idea of a restaurant in the Association—a Parisian idea, which has since, however, been adopted by American Associations and others. We believe, however, Cree got over his

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prejudice. When a new idea was put before him which had the support of a reasonable number of votes, he always suggested that the experiment be tried. His general and particular knowledge of methods from the point of view of administration was very extensive, especially in all that concerned the functions of members, and above all of the members of the board of directors and their particular qualifications. One must have deeply religious men, but also practical men who have knowledge of administrative affairs and a certain social standing.

All those who have had the privilege of close acquaintance with Mr. Cree cherish the memory of a man quite devoted to the cause of the Association, who served it in the most practical manner and without the least feeling of pride. He was truly "the right man in the right place."

(signed) J. ADRIEN.

When Mr. Cree came to see us he had to completely change our attitude of mind toward the conception of what a Young Men's Christian Association ought to be.

He told us, "Up to now you have been gathering together Christian young men having like beliefs to study the Bible. You have done well for yourselves, but you have done nothing for others. You are becoming self-centered. Do as we do: We draw in all kinds of young men. When they are in the Association the active members work to bring them to Christ. If they are not brought to the faith we

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have at least the satisfaction that during the hours passed in the Association they are under better influences than they would be otherwise.''' After this he had to put us to work, and to give us confidence in the financial soundness of this new conception.

That Mr. Cree achieved these two results proves how persuasive he was.

As regards the work of committee members, I believe it was he who advised us to go two by two in our canvassing visits. I myself have made several visits with Mr. Buscarlet and each time we have secured a larger subscription than that which was usually given to us.

As regards the make-up of committees, it was he who told us that we must draw into committees men whom one would be glad to have as directors on the executive boards of industrial and financial concerns because they could bring to the management of the affairs of the Association the qualities for which they were otherwise sought out.

(signed) W. HAUSER.

Mr. Thomas K. Cree came to Paris for the purpose of organizing and carrying out a financial canvass to secure funds and building up the Young Men's Christian Association.

I believe he spent several months visiting all the Protestants who might possibly join in this financial effort, and succeeding in persuading them to subscribe annually a sum ten times greater than they had given before. While the success of the subscrip-

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tion is due to Mr. Cree, it is true he came with some prestige for he could say, "I come in behalf of Mr. Stokes who wishes to make a handsome gift for the young men of Paris"—and he did not think highly of himself on this account!

With Mr. Gaylord he completely electrified the members of the Association in Paris, encouraging them, and making them see the work on a larger scale than before.

Mr. Cree put the work always first. Personal matters, his own preferences came always after interests of the work.

(signed) GEO. HARRISON.

The following is from Franklin A. Gaylord, now director of the Russian Society Mayak (Lighthouse), which stands for the Young Men's Christian Association in that country; he was for some years general secretary of the Paris Association:

As I had the great privilege of being associated with Mr. Cree in the reorganization and development of the French Young Men's Christian Association in Paris in 1890, I came to know him very well both as an Association worker and as a Christian. His confidence in the final success of the work in which we were engaged was absolute; and he went about it with a cheerful optimism that was contagious.

It is well known that to transform a society already existing and proceeding along old-fashioned lines,

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is often much more difficult than to create something entirely new. To win success in such an enterprise always demands great patience and tact. These Mr. Cree possessed in abundant measure. Fortunately he so won the confidence of the French brethren that they ultimately accepted almost all of our suggestions; and the French Society entered upon a course of development that has made its influence felt powerfully throughout France. In general the planning of Mr. Cree was clear and sensible and he brought to its execution an aggressive energy that triumphed over all obstacles.

The Christian life of Mr. Cree was joyous and triumphant; and, by its constant manifestation, he won the love of all about him. He had among other excellent qualities, an abounding sense of humor that made him a most enjoyable companion and helped greatly in smoothing away difficulties and overcoming opposition.

It is men like Mr. Cree who do the real work of the world; and it is a great pleasure to me to pay my tribute of love and admiration to the character of so good a man. I feel today that, personally, I owe much to his influence and example; and both my wife and myself richly treasure his memory.

Mr. Cree's relationship to the World's Committee and its work was a significant one. Beginning with Geneva, in 1878, he was in attendance at the meetings of the World's Conference. At this era-making gathering,

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where an executive committee was first chosen and a world's secretary appointed, he was one of the forty American delegates, and he returned as an active working delegate to the following conferences of 1881, 1884, 1888 and 1891. From his knowledge of parliamentary law, his business training, and his technical experience, Mr. Cree was the acknowledged clerk of his delegation; and the American delegation was the leading one, usually in numbers and always in influence. It was Mr. Cree who was selected to frame for submission to the Amsterdam Conference of 1891 the constitution, which it adopted and which, with amendments, has been in force ever since.

By his continuous attendance at the conferences, and his frequent trips abroad, often semi-official in character, Mr. Cree became intimately acquainted with the leading Association men of the various countries, and was for many years in more or less constant correspondence with many of them. His opinion on Association matters, especially on questions of finance, was always greatly respected abroad as well as at home. For many years, also, Mr. Cree was responsible for raising the American quota of the World's Committee budget, and in this as in other things he was most dependable. Who will take his place?

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The following concise yet comprehensive report Mr. Cree made to Mr. Stokes at the end of one of his European trips, evidently largely under the direction and patronage of that gentleman. It well illustrates his efficiency in dealing with men and situations and in bringing things to pass :

I have been away from New York five months and a half and expect to be gone a month longer, making my separation from the Committee six months and a half. Of this I gave as directly connected with the work in Europe from the 6th of April until my return to New York, the 24th of July. In addition some two weeks were given to the work in Rome. The result there was the organization of the work on right lines, the securing of means to carry it on for the year, the renting of a good suite of rooms centrally located, and the employment of a temporary secretary to have charge of the work until the trained secretary is ready to take it up. There is a good set of men in management of affairs, and with the exception of one pastor all of the Protestant churches are in hearty coöperation. A little study was given to the situation in other cities, and the time is not far distant when through the secretary in Rome, coöperating with the Italian National Committee, a good work can be started in other towns. I conferred freely with the chairman of the National Committee and found that they are proposing to work along proper lines, discouraging

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church organizations and encouraging the organization of real Christian Associations with secretaries and good work. In Venice I found a band of four hundred young men engaged on moral lines, something like the secular work of the American Associations, and believe that the time is coming when we can get in with the Christian part of this company.

On the 6th of April I arrived at Nice, where I met Sir George Williams and participated in a number of meetings in the interest of the local Association, meeting some prominent people and conferring freely with the officers and some of the workers. The result was the decision to rent modest rooms, and the way seemed to be clear for securing the necessary funds. In Marseilles I had a good meeting with the Association and some representative business men. This is one of the most hopeful fields in France, and with the coöperation of an efficient national secretary with the nerve to press the thing in the right direction, the money could be procured for employing a local secretary and a good work could be done. The same is true of Bordeaux. I met Sir George again in Lyons, where we had some half dozen valuable and pleasant gatherings, including a parlor conference, which was a great success, and a breakfast with Mr. Cazenove, the president of the Association, whose grandfather was the founder of Cazenovia, N. Y. He is a splendid man, an earnest Christian, and a warm friend of Mr. Andre's. They have enlisted some of the most

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prominent business men and have taken an elegant suite of rooms on the ground floor and are fitting them up in good shape and are proposing to spend quite a respectable sum in their current expenses. They have gotten a number of larger subscriptions from local men, and they can do a good and successful work. I conferred with the board of directors, addressed a large public meeting, met with the active Association workers and a number of young men from Associations within a radius of one hundred miles. I also conferred freely with the National Committee and urged its transfer to Paris, with Mr. Andre as chairman, and I think it will work out that Mr. Hughes will be called as local secretary to Lyons, and possibly Mr. Sautter as national secretary in Paris.

In Paris I met the Societie Anonyme and arranged for the complete organization of the Societie and the issue of stock. I examined carefully the accounts for the building and arranged with Mr. Andre in coöperation with yourself to close it all up. I was careful in the matter and went into some of the details of the receipts which were unknown to anybody else except myself and secured quite a respectable sum—some two or three thousand francs—which had not been credited or paid in to the building fund. I conferred very freely with the brethren of the local Association, meeting with the board of directors and going into the details of their work, which subject I hope to take up with yourself shortly after my return. I conferred with Mr. Sautter and

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Mr. Andre and the Paris brethren in regard to their joining the National Committee, which they are willing to do.

Considerable time was spent in Geneva conferring with the Central International Committee. I presented a scheme which was entirely new to them and which required not a little explanation to secure their approval. The result was the adoption of what the American and English brethren desired, the employment of a second secretary equal in rank and pay to Mr. Fermaud, and his location in Berlin. I also have the assurance that Mr. Max Perrott will be added to the Committee, and I hope that Mr. Ernest Favre will accept the chairmanship. If not, Professor Barde will do so and would prove very acceptable. I have urged a division of the work of the Committee among subcommittees, and have gone over the enlarged work of the Committee very freely with its members.

I spent some time in London in conference with Sir George Williams, Mr. Mills and the English brethren, and they are in harmony with us in every particular. After arrangements had all been made for sailing home it seemed necessary and desirable, and also in accordance with the wishes of yourself, that I should visit Berlin, which I did, conferring there very freely with the strong men of the Berlin Association. It resulted in the visit of Mr. Phildius and myself to Elberfeld where we spent two nights and a day in protracted conference with the Elberfeld brethren, and while it did not result in their

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accepting our proposition, yet I think the result will be just what we wish and that they will at first acquiesce and subsequently endorse what we have done. It gave me an opportunity of knowing these brethren and of familiarizing myself with the work in Germany, which it is very important we should thoroughly understand in future dealing with continental problems.

I returned again to Berlin, and after a consultation with the brethren it was deemed best, after consulting with yourself, for me to go to Geneva where I had the good fortune to secure a quorum of the Committee and they took just the action which I recommended and which subsequently met with the approval of the English brethren and yourself. I also had a conference in Berlin with the brethren over the students' movement and a very successful meeting in Geneva, which was followed by a second meeting of the students themselves and all the arrangements for a summer school. I made the acquaintance of Pastor Frank Thomas, which will I hope result eventually in his visit to America and the undertaking of a work for French-speaking people on a large scale.

Mr. Cree's life as a traveling secretary was a strenuous one, as we have seen, and an occasional respite was enjoyed to the full; such a breathing spell is described in the following extract, and is a good sample of concise yet picturesque writing characteristic of the man:

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George Hall, David McConaughy and myself started for a tramp through Switzerland. Leaving Geneva we went to Chamonix, crossed the Mer de Glace, had a fine view of Mt. Blanc, and crossed the Tête-Noire pass to Martigny where we took a train for Visp. At that time there was not even a carriage road into Zermatt, and Hall and McConaughy made the journey on foot to St. Niklaus, where we took a carriage to Zermatt. We made the ascent of the Gorner Grat and had a splendid view of the Matterhorn. Visiting the baths of Leuk we bathed in the hot springs in which invalids spend four or five hours a day. We crossed the Gemmi pass, one of the wonders of Switzerland. At Interlaken we crossed the Wengern Alp on foot, as the railroad had not yet been finished. We saw several avalanches and had a good view of the Jungfrau. Leaving the Giessbach fall, which we saw illuminated, we had a delightful tramp, but unfortunately, while on the Grimsel pass, leading to the Rhone glacier, night came on and found us a long way from the Grimsel hospice. The road was entirely new to us, the night was very dark, and we were lost in the mountains, with the foot path so poorly defined that we could not follow it. At ten o'clock we came to the meeting of two ways; neither had anything to indicate to us which was the one that we should take. We had just decided to settle down in the cold and darkness for the night and await the morning, when at a considerable distance we saw the welcome light of a candle, which guided us

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to the hospice we were seeking. We were much impressed by our narrow escape from an uncomfortable night, and appreciated the comforts of the hospice as we would not otherwise have done. During the night Mr. McConaughy dreamed that he was falling from one of the numerous precipices that we had passed during the day and evening, and he awoke Mr. Hall and myself by dashing over the foot of his bed, carrying with him the wash-bowl and pitcher, which added to the racket; fortunately the feather bed, which in mountain regions in Switzerland is used as a covering, broke his fall and he was but little hurt. The next morning, crossing the mountain to the Rhone glacier, we continued our journey to Andermatt where we took the railroad over the St. Gothard pass to Lucerne. Making the ascent of the Rigi we saw the sunrise. From Lucerne we went to Munich, and from there had a delightful trip, taking the boat at Linz on the Danube to Vienna, where we spent several days, enjoying the city greatly.

En route to Berlin, we spent a short time in Dresden. The art gallery was new to us, and we saw for the first time Hoffman's pictures of "Christ in the Temple," and "Woman taken in Adultery," and brought with us the first photographs of these pictures that we had ever seen. The convention at Berlin was the opening of real Young Men's Christian Association work in Central Europe.

IX. TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

A commemorative dinner proposed—Some interesting autographs—A gathering of old friends—Speeches and letters—A typical after-dinner response.

IN the beginning of 1902, T. K. Cree had arrived at his twenty-fifth anniversary as a secretary of the International Committee, and some of his friends thought that the event should be fittingly commemorated. An anniversary dinner was determined upon as something likely to please Mr. Cree; it would bring together in a social reunion a goodly number of his friends and co-workers, affording an opportunity for personal congratulations and be an occasion of general good fellowship. A letter was drafted, a certain number of representative signatures obtained, and the matter was presented to Mr. Cree under date of February 3, 1902. This letter follows. The names are given in autograph, as many of the signatures possess an historic interest even now, and will continue to increase in this characteristic as the years go by:

February 3, 1902

Mr. Thomas K. Cree,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

Realizing the inestimable service which you have rendered in promoting the best welfare of the young men of this and other lands in the leading position you have held for the past twenty-five years, as secretary of the International Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations, and in commemoration of this quarter century of your invaluable labor and leadership in Christian work, we heartily unite in a cordial invitation to you to join us and other friends at dinner in this city on the evening of February 14, or upon some other evening better suiting your convenience and preference.

Hoping for your favorable reply we are

Very sincerely,

Richard B. Korte

Isakine W. H.

Clarence Hilde

Samuel D. Goodman

~~Samuel~~ Ober

W. D. Songel

H. P. Andersen

Geo. B. Hodge

Geo. A. Hall

N. K. Jennings

J. F. Robinson

Oliver W. McIntock

John G. Gory

Howard A. Black

W. E. Fenno

Geo. J. Helstrom

H. S. Wind

C. K. Ober

W. B. Millar.

Joseph Harder,

James Bacon

Chas. Jewell

O. O. Howard

H. M. Moore

Wm. C. Wright

H. J. M. Bry

Wm. A. B. B.

~~Wm. A. B. B.~~

Merrill E. Yates

Twenty-fifth Anniversary

This dinner was finally held on the 6th of May (1902), at The Arena, West 31st Street, New York. Between fifty and sixty of Mr. Cree's friends were present. Hon. H. K. Porter of Pittsburgh, presided; other speakers were W. K. Jennings, Cephas Brainerd, Henry M. Orne, John H. Elliott, D. D., Richard C. Morse, D. W. McWilliams, James Stokes, and George A. Hall. E. D. Ingersoll read a telegram from Rev. Dr. Theodore L. Cuyler, and letters from H. M. Moore of Boston; Judge Selden P. Spencer, St. Louis; D. A. Budge, Montreal; Hon. John Wanamaker, Philadelphia; H. J. McCoy, San Francisco; T. S. McPheeters, St. Louis; W. Woods White, Atlanta; N. W. Harris, Chicago; C. B. Willis, Milwaukee; H. M. McIlhany, Staunton, Va.; G. M. Bierce, Dayton, and others. Following are a few extracts from the many letters received:

Henry M. Moore, Boston. "I heard a man say, where they had a very difficult field, but still wanted a Young Men's Christian Association in the place, 'Well, you just send for Tom Cree; let him come with his carpet bag, give him a room to sleep in, and he will straighten out all your difficult problems and organize an Association in a week.' "

Professor H. B. Silliman, New York. "I do

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not know any one in the circle of my acquaintance whom I honor more for the work which he has done, and esteem more highly for those qualities of mind and heart which endear him to all who know him."

Henry J. McCoy, San Francisco. "Assure Thomas K. Cree that no man in our great brotherhood more highly appreciates him for his worth as a Christian gentleman, as a wise worker, than myself. He did the pioneer work in San Francisco, and it was largely through his influence that I came to this city twenty-one years ago."

Ira D. Sankey. "I should have liked very much to be present and to have said a few words to express my sense of obligation to Mr. Cree for the important part he played in my early Christian life. It was because of his encouraging me as a young man in New Castle, Pa., to take hold of the first Association there, that I was enabled to continue as one of the active young men who built up the Association in that place, and from which after several years I was sent as a delegate to Indianapolis to attend a great International convention in 1870. It was there I met Mr. Moody."

Capt. H. M. McIlhany, Staunton, Va. "It was through my dear brother, when a guest in

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my home, that I was led to hold family worship, and have never failed since May 17, 1880; and I want to bear testimony that it has been an anchor that has done more to hold me to the Cross than any other."

W. Woods White, Atlanta. "To his fidelity, to his persistent and intelligent presentation of our work, to his constant appeals to an ever-widening circle of intelligent supporters of our work for financial help, to his broad sympathies, which included every line of our work, much of the success as well as strength of today of the International work is due."

Hon. H. K. Porter, who presided at the dinner, in a recent letter writes as follows:

"I was deeply impressed at this dinner with the tribute paid to Mr. Cree by D. W. McWilliams, of Brooklyn. He was speaking of Mr. Cree's labors in the South. He was with him somewhere I think in Alabama. He had heard him in the conduct of many religious meetings and was well acquainted with his methods and plans. He spoke particularly of his addresses on the influence and work of the Holy Spirit. With deep feeling and profound reverence Mr. McWilliams testified that he had never listened to such powerful and effective utterances from human lips on these high themes. What impressive testimony from a

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thoughtful, serious-minded hearer and sympathetic man. God used Mr. Cree, and once more was shown the blessedness which comes to every one who learns well the lesson of life—learns here in the earthly life to walk with God. He rests from his labors and his works do follow him.”

Among the letters called out by this occasion, the following from one of Mr. Cree’s warmest friends is so spicy that it is given in full; it is a specimen of the kind his own bright humor drew from others—humor for humor:

Lyons Falls, N. Y., May 5, 1902.

My dear Mr. Cree:

Noble Greek! So you are to be fed *on entering* The Arena. I had a notion that they who “ran for the prize” abstained till the race was run—or lost—and then, “to the victor belongs the spoils.” “Lay on Macduff.” Because you celebrate a quarter century special service, *don’t* begin to sing,

My latest sun is sinking fast,
My race is nearly run.

No,

Ne’er think the victory won,
Nor lay thine armor down;
The work of faith will not be done
Till thou obtain the crown.

Well, my friend, it would do me good to be present and see you surrounded by so many old and tried

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friends; to hear the (dry) toasts that will be given in your honor. You have done a good work, and a little ante mortem kind appreciation don't hurt anybody. The world would have more heart for faithful work if only there were more of it. Mr. Hall . . . will go to New York tonight to be on hand to congratulate you. He is deputed to say all sorts of nice things on our behalf. Also to remind you that the Hall-Cree path is overgrown and needs trimming out badly, and you had better see to it. With sincere congratulations and best wishes from Mrs. M. and myself

Believe me your old friend,

C. C. MERRIAM.

We have no report of Mr. Cree's response made at this dinner; but we have one made by him at the fiftieth anniversary of the Pittsburgh Association some two years later, and it is given here as quite appropriate, and as a good sample of Mr. Cree's after-dinner talks:

Fifty years ago three important events occurred. We have heard something of two of them: the organization of the first Young Men's Christian Association of Pittsburgh, and the first International convention at Buffalo. The third incident was slightly personal—it was my own arrival in Pittsburgh.

There was no crowd at the depot to meet me, nor was there any special demonstration in the city; but

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it was a very important event to me. And, Mr. Chairman, I have been sitting here all the evening, clothed with happiness, as well as with an ordinary suit, and with an imaginary halo about my head—that which you see is not the halo, but the remnants of an elegant head of black hair which I brought here fifty years ago. My happiness and my imaginary halo come from the thought that I, the returned prodigal, am celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of my coming to Pittsburgh, and this goodly company of gentlemen, many of them old friends, all unknown to themselves, have been joining with me in the celebration.

There is a story told of a temperance lecturer who carried around with him a “frightful example” of the results of intemperance. We have here twenty-one examples of those who were the early organizers of this Association: there is one poor reprobate who is here tonight to represent the young men of fifty years ago. I was one of the boys then, but I was one of the class that the Young Men’s Christian Association of that early day was endeavoring to reach; and there is sitting here tonight one of the members of that Association who then took me to the first Christian Association rooms. He showed me the papers that were there on file, the magazines, and other attractions, and told me about the meetings; but that is all I had to do with the Young Men’s Christian Association fifty years ago—except that the men who were connected with that Association were men whose influence—and often it was

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a quiet influence—went into my life and shaped it—and today I am an International Christian Association secretary.

Fifty years ago I came here a boy. I was employed at \$5 a week at the corner of Market Street and the Diamond, and Mr. Andrew Carnegie—whom Pittsburgh respects, and whom the world will more and more respect as his wonderful generosity becomes more widely known—Mr. Carnegie was employed at that time at the corner of Wood and Third Streets at \$3 a week. I saw today the foundations of the school of technology, to which Mr. Carnegie has given, or will give, five, ten, twenty or twenty-five million dollars; and gentlemen, I would rather look back upon the results of my thirty-three years' service as a Christian Association secretary, and the influence that it has been possible for me to exercise—I would rather look back upon it, and look into the faces of you men here tonight, as the representatives of the Christian Association movement, than to have it said that I was here as the man who had given five, ten, fifteen or twenty-five million dollars to this magnificent school.

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When I became secretary of the Pittsburgh Association in 1869, there were not a dozen Christian Association secretaries in the world. There are in the work in this country today (1904) eighteen hundred and seventy-one employed men, of whom I am number three. Eighteen hundred and sixty-

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nine of them have entered the work since I became secretary of the Pittsburgh Association. I thank God tonight that I have been permitted to bear a part in this magnificent work for young men, which now belts the globe, and which is influencing men in every land and of every tongue, and is bringing young men in great multitudes to a knowledge of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

X. VACATIONS AND LATER YEARS

The Chambersburg home—Recuperating at Clifton Springs—
All about bonds—Systematic exercise—Many trips
abroad—A born letter writer—Business instincts—
Religion first—Retires from the Committee—Last trip
abroad—Laid to rest.

ALTHOUGH Mr. Cree never married, and consequently lived during most of his business life in hotels and boarding houses, he always had a home to which he could turn for rest and recreation during his vacations. Before the death of his father and mother and the breaking up of the Queen Street home, his brother and family had come to Chambersburg to make it their permanent residence. The Queen Street place was afterwards sold, and a commodious house purchased on Philadelphia Avenue, and here Mr. Cree spent the summer vacations for the last eighteen years of his life. He took great interest in everything connected with this home, and seemed earnestly to desire that it should be equipped with every comfort that would make life easier for its occupants. Generous, hospitable, thoughtful for others, there were few in any home circle more loved or more loving. His quick humor and bright repartee made him

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indeed the life of the household. Even in a New York boarding house his cheery greeting and his expressed interest in the temporal and eternal welfare of those who sat at table with him and of those who waited on him made him respected and esteemed.

Mr. Cree was in delicate health during the greater part of his life. From the time of his school days in Lancaster his health was a matter of concern to his friends. He had several severe illnesses which undermined his constitution and his long life was due only to the unremitting care which he took in everything which concerned his health. As early as 1860 his mother was much worried about him, as is shown by the following letter :

Chambersburg, May 24, 1860.

My dear Thomas:

We were very sorry to hear that you were still so unwell, but hope that your trip home will have the desired effect. I would like it if you could oblige Mr. Eaton & Co. by staying thro' June, but your health must be the first consideration.

If you conclude to come by Bedford, you can go from Huntingdon to Hopewell by the Broad Top R. R. for \$1, then take the stage and go 20 miles over a tolerable road, for \$1.50, which will land you at Dr. B. F. Harry's door, if you wish it. The fare from Bedford here is \$3.50, and 25 cents for a real

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good dinner on the road. You would have to come all the way in the stage, which leaves at 7, A.M. and arrives here about 9½ at night; but as the road is good it is not a very tiresome trip. The greatest objection is that they have old, worn out horses on the whole route; but perhaps stage riding might be better for you than car riding. If you prefer, you can go back to Huntingdon, which I suppose on the whole would be most pleasant. You could then make your friends there a visit, and come home by Mt. Union, and Jane and Mary would meet you at the Shades, and you could have your visit there, unless you would rather come right home, and see Dr. Senseny. Frank Harry is considered a good and skillful doctor. You could consult him if you go to Bedford.

I have now given you some plans, and you can do whatever you think is best. I send you the ticket. If you do not use it perhaps Mr. Scott or someone in Huntingdon might be coming here and could use it; if not I can dispose of it here.

.

I need not tell you how anxious I am, and how much I think about you. I may with truth say that you are in all my thoughts. May the Everlasting Arms be over and around you, is the prayer, my dear son, of

Your affectionate Mother.

In the fall of 1865, Mr. Cree had an acute attack, which for a time was most serious. He

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was forced to give up his work, and as soon as he was able to travel he went to the sanitarium at Clifton Springs, N. Y., where he was much benefited. The following letters are of interest concerning his life there:

Clifton, Sept. 21, 1865.

Dr. Bro. Jim:

I arrived here last night, most heartily tired after my long day's journey. Left Albany at seven o'clock, and got here between four and five. Found the house full, so full that I had to go to a hotel, but was glad to get in anywhere. Would have stopped at Syracuse only I was anxious to see the doctor, as I did not know just how I was getting along. Today, very unexpectedly, I got a room and am now located until able to resume business.

Started in on the regular course of treatment today. Think I shall like it and that it will prove very beneficial. I never noticed until this morning how prominent my cheek bones were nor how sharp, and what hollows I have above and below them. I don't believe I weigh one hundred pounds—must have lost at least twenty pounds while sick. I presume my convalescence will be quite slow, and if trade is brisking up perhaps it would be well to fill my place, if you can get some good person, as we have not been too flush of hands when I was at home.

. . . . Write me as I am anxious to know how trade is, and how you are getting along. I sat down

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just to tell you of my arrival, but business just popped into my head, and here is a long letter.

Love to Mary and the folks at the store. My address is care of Water Cure, Clifton, Ontario Co., N. Y.

Afft. your Bro.

TOM.

Clifton, Oct. 3, 1865.

Dr. Bro. Jim:

I am still improving—commenced yesterday morning to exercise in the gymnasium. Am not as yet able to go through the whole lesson, but in a few days think I can do so. Am able to stand quite a little walk, and on the whole am getting along nicely. Am looking very anxiously for that package. Have Friday's *Chronicle*, and not a word of its having been shipped. I really need it very badly. Day after tomorrow it will be two weeks since I wrote you to send it.

Today is damp and chilly, making a fire feel quite comfortable.

I see by the N. Y. papers that there has been quite an advance in paper of all kinds. Would it not be well to lay in a supply? The Paper Manufacturing Co. on 3rd St. between Wood and Market, is the best place to buy all kinds. Have you ordered boxes yet? I would have done so, only I was half sick all the time and lacked my usual energy. Pasteboard ought to go up with paper. You had best attend to them if you have not already done so.

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I have been making calculations on bonds, and if the proposals for \$50,000,000 5/20s don't upset the market, I think I would sell 5/20s and 10/40s, and buy 3rd Series 7/30s. 5/20s may go higher, but at the price they are, 7/30s are better. Taking 68½-price in London, gold 144, exchange 109½, 5/20s ought to be worth \$107¼ here. But selling at 106½, and buying 3rd Series 7/30s at 98½, it is equivalent to 10-⅓%, or 5/20s with gold at 172. Or if sold with coupon off at 102¼, is equivalent to 106½ with it on. 3rd Series has only 2 yrs, 8 mos. to run till they can be turned into 5/20s. The 10/40 with coupon off sold at 94, is equivalent to 97:60. Then 3rd Series at 98½, ¼ off each for buying and selling would leave a profit of 1% on Uncle Jonathan's 10/40s, which would pay express. My calculations are made on prices of Saturday. If they have fallen since, of course my figures have gone up, but at Saturday's quotations, they are correct. I think there is a coupon on Uncle Jonathan's bond due. If not, of course my figures are not correct. Uncle Jonathan wanted to exchange his 10/40s at 97½ for 7/30s at par.

I can't understand the mails here. I got Monday's *Commercial* Saturday morning, Friday's Saturday evening, Friday's *Commercial* and *Chronicle* this morning, and Tuesday's I guess I'll get tonight.

I enclose a letter to Mother; if she is not home yet you can forward it to her.

Afft. your Bro.

TOM.

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The above letter shows that, although supposed to be "on the sick list," Mr. Cree still took an active interest in his business concerns. The discussion of the bond sales is especially interesting. The following reports his return to health:

Clifton, Oct. 20, 1865.

Dr. Bro. Jim:

Should nothing unforeseen occur, I shall be home on Tuesday evening, so if you delay your supper a little, I may have the pleasure of taking tea with you. Will come via Erie & Pittsburgh road. As the mail is very slow, I don't know but that I may reach you before this letter arrives, but you ought to have this Monday or Tuesday morning. I do not at all regret my extra week here, as I shall go home all the better fitted for business. I now feel better than I have done in a long time, but it is now over six weeks since I was taken ill.

Were it not for business, I could stay here a couple of weeks longer with much pleasure, and I doubt not with benefit; but as I am now fully recovered, it would only be for the pleasure of the place. I have made many pleasant friends, and I know I will be missed; but of course they would all treat me well, when they thought I was going to die in a week or two. I know everybody now, and can take my part in all the gayety that is going on. I can hardly realize that I am the same person that came here just able to walk four weeks ago.

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I so much regret that Mary did not come, I would like her to have met my Clifton friends. Next time I am here, probably not one of the same persons will be here—society is changing all the time.

But the tea bell has rung—were it not for that I might tell you of the beautiful view from my fourth story window, of the many-hued autumn forests, which I am so soon to leave for the cares of city business life—but tea is more attractive.

Love to Mother, Father, Mary and Cornie.

Afft. your Bro.

TOM.

From the time of this visit, he many times returned to Clifton for rest and treatment. The atmosphere of the place was most congenial to one of his religious convictions, and he was always welcomed very heartily and put into better condition for his work.

Regular exercise of some kind was to him a Christian duty second only in importance to daily Bible study. If the weather prevented outdoor exercise, he took “setting up” exercises in his room systematically, but ordinarily his bicycle was his great delight. In New York City he could be seen on his wheel in Central Park every pleasant morning between the hours of six and half past seven. He was a well-known figure on all the roads about Chambersburg, and on the beautiful roads of

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Bermuda. When, during the last year of his life, his physician forbade the use of the bicycle, and he was obliged to substitute for it an automobile, it was like giving up an old friend. The automobile had to him the advantage, however, that by means of it he was able to give great pleasure to many of his friends and acquaintances while taking his prescribed recreation.

For several years he was forced to take a winter as well as a summer vacation. No one knew better than he the importance of a vacation, or how to get the greatest benefit from one. With one or more of his nieces he went either South or to Bermuda or abroad. While away from his office he often transacted much of the business at long range, although he did not receive a salary except for the time that he was actually on duty there.

He made in all some twelve or fourteen trips abroad, between his first one in 1867 and his last in 1912. On some of these trips he went as a delegate to the World's conferences or to a meeting of the World's Committee. Sometimes he went as an expert to look into Association matters in different European capitals, and on others simply for recreation and change of scene. Full of enthusiasm to visit new places or to revisit old ones, making light of

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difficulties, cheerful under all conditions and never seasick, he was an excellent traveling companion, and always anxious that his friends should enjoy the things that pleased him. His correspondence from abroad was well worth reading. A comparison of the letters written on his earlier trips with those of his later ones is of interest as showing the growth of his appreciation of art, and especially of his love for the old masters. Knowing but little of art when he first went abroad, he gradually learned to know and to love a good picture and a fine statue. One of his favorite recreations in later years, after a hard day's work in his office, was to spend the evening in the Metropolitan Museum in New York City, where he would sit for long periods before his favorite pictures. He often advised his friends that they should spend more time there.

Early in life Mr. Cree seems to have developed that fluency with his pen which was of such service to him in later years. The letters written during his schoolboy career in Lancaster are full of interest and humor. Those written during his journeys through the West, especially while secretary of the Indian Commission, when he was for years a regular correspondent of the *Pittsburgh Chronicle*, give excellent descriptions of the—at that

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time—new country. These letters were written almost daily, and from them could almost be constructed a complete itinerary of his journeys. He wrote also many letters in defence of the policy of the Commission, which were published from time to time in the leading New York papers and elsewhere. He constantly did a great deal of writing on religious subjects during his long connection with the Young Men's Christian Association, and many of his articles were published in leading religious journals. He was often selected to write up the Association conventions and conferences, both for religious and secular papers, and he wrote largely on subjects of civic reform, of national as well as municipal and state concern.

He has left no great literary work as a monument of his life, and while critics would deny him a place in the galaxy of authors, he was a prolific writer in his own field, and there remains a sufficient amount to make a considerable volume were it collected and published. His style is interesting and his diction clear and decisive. It is thought that had he devoted to literature the energy that he gave to his other work, he would have shown himself to have possessed the true literary instinct.

But Mr. Cree's proclivities were really of

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a business rather than a literary nature, and his writing, aside from his business and social letters, had for its object the bringing of things to pass. He was an excellent business man, with a strong leaning toward finance. He also gave evidence of a talent for organization and administration which would have stood him in good stead had he remained in business life. Had he gone into banking, as he thought of doing in 1869, what possibilities in the way of the promoting of corporations might not have been opened before him! But these very qualities were given ample play in the field of his choice, and with the International Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association, with its constantly expanding and varied activities, he found his real life work.

In and through all his other effort, however, after he became a Christian man, were woven closely the things of the Spirit. Thomas K. Cree put ever first in thought and action the interests of the Kingdom of Christ; and not only as a great world conquest, but in direct and definite personal touch with individual men, winning them one by one to their Lord and Saviour.

His first church membership was in the Third Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh. During his Washington life he was a mem-

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ber of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church. Upon becoming a member of the International Committee, he joined the Madison Avenue Reformed Church of New York, where he was an active member until about one month before his death, when he transferred his membership to the Central Presbyterian Church of Chambersburg, Pa.

He was a tower of strength to his pastor, being always present at the services of the church, and interested in all the forms of church activity. At the midweek prayer meetings his prayers and remarks were pertinent and beneficial. He could be depended on alike for counsel and for active or financial assistance.

Dr. Carter, pastor of the Madison Avenue Church of New York, of which he was for many years an elder, says of him: "Mr. Cree was to me as a father and I never had a dearer or more faithful friend. I have known many Christians in my twenty-five years' ministry, but I never knew a better one than was he, whom I always looked upon as a veritable saint of God."

In 1909 he made a short trip to the Holy Land, which he had long desired to visit, and he enjoyed it as much as might be expected from such a Bible student. In the fall of 1911

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he gave up his work with the International Committee and retired to Chambersburg, where he continued to interest himself in his many activities, proposing definitely to take up the civic work of his native town. He became an honorary member of the Civic Club of Chambersburg, and began to make his influence felt in many ways. While not a rich man, he had ample means to satisfy his simple tastes and to live comfortably. He was systematically charitable, not giving indiscriminately, but only after due investigation, and then generously. At his death his public bequests for charitable purposes amounted to almost forty thousand dollars, an amount which constituted a large proportion of his estate.

He had contemplated a trip around the world after his retirement, but instead he went to Egypt with a niece in the early months of 1912. Every moment of the trip was an unalloyed pleasure, whether spent among the ancient ruins or in visiting the mission stations of Cairo or in the valley of the Nile. Going from Egypt to Italy, he had a sudden and severe illness in Rome from which he never entirely recovered. It was noticed after his return home that when going about, he did not show the same strength and vigor as formerly. Late in November he had another attack, and

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after four days of illness, he died calmly and peacefully on the morning of December 3, 1912.

He was laid at rest in the cemetery of the Falling Spring Church in Chambersburg—the church which his parents and he himself had attended for so many years, and in the family lot, where he sleeps with his near kindred—father and mother, brother and sisters.

In a letter written some years before, Mr. Cree had described this same cemetery, and it is thought most appropriate to insert his description here:

The Falling Spring Church is located on a lot deeded by Col. Chambers, the founder of the town, to the trustees in consideration of the annual rent of one rose, to be paid his heirs forever on the first of June, if required. The church is of native limestone, and its external structure, with walls covered with moss and ivy, indicate it as a relic of a past age. Its antiquity gives it a peculiar attraction, and its being elevated on a small hill at the edge of town seems to call upon those who worship in its sanctuary, to leave the association and pursuits of a bustling world and *come up* to the presence of the Lord.

On Wednesday morning we visited the cemetery, formerly an Indian burying ground. It is situated in the rear of the church, and is one of the loveliest homes of the dead anywhere to be seen. Though within the limits of the town, it is pervaded by

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much of the solemn stillness of the country, and bordered by the Falling Spring and the beautiful Conococheague (Con-o-co-jig), it is one of the most romantic appearing places to be found. Although *art* has not done so much for it as for many city cemeteries, yet the hand of affection has filled it with ivy and myrtle, and the visitor cannot help observing the rich shrubbery which adorns the grounds through which he wanders, and the stately and majestic trees, which once sheltered the redman in his slumbers after the toils of the day, and the numerous cedars scattered through the enclosure seem to represent the unfading recollections of the departed which are cherished in many a heart.

Here is buried the founder of the city, his resting place marked by a plain marble slab. Around him are gathered many of his descendants, and here :

Each in his narrow cell forever laid,
The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep.

XI. APPRECIATIONS AND REMINISCENCES

Henry Edwards Brown—I. G. Jenkins—David McConaughy—
D. A. Budge—H. J. McCoy—James H. Cowan—P.
Augustus Wieting—Curtis M. Thorpe—An old school-
mate—Office reminiscences.

*Henry Edwards Brown, formerly International
Secretary for work among Colored men in
the South:*

My knowledge of Mr. Cree began when he came to me for a bit of information in Chicago. He seemed to be Moody's chief efficient helper in the great meetings. He always impressed me as honest and broad minded, ready for any task however new or difficult. He had such a combination of faith in God, knowledge of men, tact and perseverance that whatever he undertook was sure to succeed.

*Isaac G. Jenkins, Railroad Secretary, West
Detroit, and No. 3 on the chronological
list of employed officers:*

For more than thirty years it was my privilege and pleasure to know Thomas K. Cree. The things which impressed me most concern-

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ing his character were his spirit of consecration, his modesty, his bearing as a Christian gentleman; genial and sympathetic by nature, he drew men to him. His optimism concerning the Association's future was inspirational and heartening to those who sought his counsel. His work at home and abroad in connection with the International Committee I believe will be abiding.

David McConaughy, formerly General Secretary, Philadelphia, later International Secretary in India, now a Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions:

Tom Cree was an elder brother to me. When I was beginning my work as a general secretary, he often invited me to join him on vacation trips abroad and in camping in Adirondack woods and St. Lawrence River. Thus, I knew him intimately. And the better I knew him, the more I admired his unfailing cheerfulness, his constant unselfishness, his wonderful will-power which lifted him above heavy physical handicaps. He was a man of great singleness of purpose. His life was wholly dedicated to winning men to his Master. From that high ambition he never turned aside. And now that he is forever with the Lord whom he so dearly loved and faithfully

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followed until death, he has received the crown of life.

D. A. Budge, the veteran Montreal secretary:

My earliest recollection of Mr. Cree is in reports which he and Mr. Hall made of their tour through Associations in the Southern States. This made a deep impression upon me at the time as to the value of that class of service, and of the ability of these men to secure spiritual results. I also recall a very helpful visit which Mr. Cree made to some of the Canadian Associations in the early years. His kindly manner, his deep conviction concerning the value of the Association work, his helpful personal influence and the remarkable memory which he seemed to possess for men and facts and circumstances in one's life, and his genial and sunny disposition made him a very attractive force in his influence upon the Association employed officers. And I can easily understand that he must have made a very helpful place for himself in the lives and experiences of a great mass of men.

*Henry J. McCoy, General Secretary of the
Young Men's Christian Association of
San Francisco since 1879:*

It was my great privilege to know Thomas

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K. Cree intimately for more than thirty-five years. He was my personal friend and valued adviser in the early days of my work in the Young Men's Christian Association. He had rare qualities of heart and life that endeared him to all who knew him. He was a gentleman of deep piety, a thorough Bible scholar, a man of large executive ability, a true friend and one of the most successful personal workers whom it has been my privilege to know. He will live for ages to come in the lives of men whom he influenced for the Kingdom of God, and his life was a great contribution to the work of the Young Men's Christian Association. In the pioneer days he laid broad and solid foundations upon which the work in North America has been reared. He was quiet, unassuming but a tremendous force for righteousness wherever his lines were cast.

James H. Cowan, Knoxville, Tenn., for many years one of the Association leaders of his state:

No man has ever lived that has more deeply left the impress of his life on the early history of the Young Men's Christian Association than Thomas K. Cree. His visits to the South, accompanied by Mr. George A. Hall, in the early seventies, are still fresh in the memories

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of many who are yet active in the Association work. Mr. Cree was personally responsible for raising the money in several cities of the South for the opening of Association rooms and the employment of their first general secretaries. To him also is due the credit for the organization of several State Committees and the call and preparation for the first state convention.

The writer vividly remembers the district convention at Maryville College in the spring of 1880, where Mr. Cree was especially active and where the Spirit of God was manifested in great measure—resulting in the lives of many of the students being consecrated to the Master for service.

Mr. Cree has been used to lead many young men to the Saviour and enlist them in service for Him. Mr. Cree loved his Bible, and his love for it inspired others to search its pages; and of him most truthfully it may be said, that he will “shine as the stars forever and ever.”

P. Augustus Wieting, for seventeen years an associate in the International office:

It was my privilege to have known Thomas K. Cree for more than thirty years, and to have seen him under all conditions—in health (health for him, for he was never robust) and

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in sickness, when in active service and when laid aside, when things in his work were running smoothly and when there was much to discourage—and I always found him the same cheerful man, looking on the bright side.

The two things in his life that impressed me the most while he was with us and that still impress me, were his implicit faith in God's word and his constant good spirits. And I believe that the latter was due very largely to the former. He was a daily student of the Bible, and took delight in leading young men to a personal acceptance of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. He called this a joyous service, and there are hundreds of men in all parts of the land that owe their salvation, humanly speaking, and their interest in Christian work, to the faithfulness of dear old Tom Cree.

Mr. Wieting also says, that when in Knoxville, Tenn., in the early eighties, he one morning received this characteristic telegram from Cree: "Peter prepare pilgrim provender place." Also, at another time, simply, "Philemon twenty-second." And these he thinks were the first intimations he had of the intended visits.

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Curtis M. Thorpe, for many years the business manager at the International office:

My acquaintance with Mr. Cree began after he had closed his more active labor in the field, about 1884; and while at times able to take hold of emergency cases and to accomplish a great deal for the Association cause, yet it was always in spite of ill health and weakness.

I knew something of his work during this period at Pittsburgh, Kansas City, St. Louis, San Francisco, Philadelphia and other places, and grew to have a high esteem and great respect for his rare business ability as shown by his success in so many serious situations—raising funds, securing the coöperation of influential men, reorganizing Associations—and could not help but notice in secretaries' conferences how all seemed to defer to his opinions and advice, especially upon important business matters.

Mr. Cree's deep religious life was apparent to all who knew him well. I think that at no time, no matter how completely his energies were absorbed in important business affairs, did he lose an opportunity to do personal religious work. He was definite and positive in his evangelical beliefs, and was most insistent that the important and vital part of the work

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of the Association must be its effort to bring men to Jesus Christ.

As in the case with most of the workers of twenty years ago, the influence of his work and life is probably not fully appreciated by the men of today; yet the work of the present is largely possible because of broad and deep foundations laid by such as Mr. Cree and his associates.

From an editorial in the *Pennsylvania School Journal* several years ago:

A few days ago we picked up the Bible Study number of *Association Men*, and came upon an article which tells the remarkable work of an old classmate and schoolboy friend in the Lancaster High School nearly fifty years ago. We knew that he was a brave, good fellow, an enthusiast in whatever good work he might undertake; and that he has been for a generation a prominent factor in the work of the Young Men's Christian Association, both in this country and abroad. But we did not know the grand foundation work which it has been his privilege to do in so many directions. . . . Tom Cree! the old High School is proud of you. We're doubly glad to have known you in the old boyhood days, and take off our hat to a man richer than Hutchinson

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or Gould or Vanderbilt or Morgan; for your work lasts, and your wealth stays, being in coin that passes current in two worlds, "that which now is and that which is to come."

In closing this chapter of Appreciations, the editor may perhaps be permitted a few reminiscences, largely personal, regarding his long-time friend. My first recollection of Mr. Cree is when he visited the Association in Rome, N. Y., of which at the time I was general secretary. It was in the early seventies, and he spoke at a public meeting, I think in the opera house on Sunday afternoon. He was then not far from forty years of age, with black curly hair, getting just a bit thin at the front; he had a fine clear-cut face, with a silky beard worn *à la* Burnside. I remember that he was introduced as the Secretary of the Board of Indian Commissioners, from Washington. From that time I knew T. K. Cree, although for the next fifteen or more years I came in contact with him chiefly through correspondence, and as we met at the various conventions. In the early months of 1892, when entering the International office, then at No. 40 East 23d Street, I came into closer touch with him, and was more or less intimately associated with

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him for twenty years. During our stay at No. 40 our desks were contiguous, and I was never out of hearing of the scratch of his busy pen. And yet there is room only for a thought here and there, to reveal something of the man as he was day by day at the office and in his social, civic and religious life.

Mr. Cree was an adept at letter writing. At the time of which I write he had ceased traveling as a field secretary; his counsel as an expert financier was still sought, but his attention was mainly given to the solicitation of funds from a certain clientage, mostly the smaller givers, and this he did very successfully and entirely through correspondence. He had series of letters, adapted to his different constituencies, and marvelously intricate were the combinations of facts and figures employed. Mr. Cree was in the habit of coming to the editorial rooms with an original draft of a letter: "Ninde, just cast your eagle eye over this and see if it is all right." Sometimes it would be the recast of a little circular, the sort of *mulum in parvo* kind he used to enclose in his letters; it would be a piece of skilful patchwork—clippings from previous ones pasted up, with marginal insertions and interlinings in his characteristic penmanship. There might be two or three pages of this, and perhaps—"It's

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a bit too long; cut it down a few lines if you can." And you could never refuse Tom, no matter how busy you might be, or how perplexing the task. You knew that he would do anything in the world for you, and be just glad for the chance to do it.

For nearly fifteen years the writer was charged with the supervision of the short devotional service held every noon at the International office. Among other things a leader had to be provided, and with the absences, business engagements and—sometimes—disinclination on the part of the secretaries, there was more or less difficulty in filling the chair. My assistant attended to most of the detail work, and often after making the rounds of the offices the report would be, "Well, it is either you or Mr. Cree." For he was always a dependable reserve, scarcely ever refusing however busy he might be; and he was not only ready and willing but seemed always to have something of interest to bring to the service. And although he allowed himself a broad scope as to topics there was always a spiritual tone to the service when Mr. Cree led.

At one time we used for the service a little book of daily Scripture readings, and in a supplement there were selections for special

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occasions, birthdays, marriage, etc. Sometimes Mr. Cree would ask, in his serio-comic way: "Anything special today? Anybody's birthday? Any of you young ladies been getting married?" Of course a smile would go round, but just for a moment; he had that peculiar tact, not possessed by many, of passing quickly and easily from the light to the serious, and somehow there seemed nothing incongruous in his humor on these occasions—it was all in keeping with his cheery Christian nature.

Sometimes he made use of the noonday meeting politically. He would come to me with a request to lead on a certain day, say he wanted to talk to the fellows on some question. It might be about some candidate who was or was not desirable, or perhaps some constitutional amendment that was to be voted upon. He could be depended on to keep the office force posted in regard to things political where there was any moral issue at stake. He not only took his religion into his politics, but he took his politics into his religion.

Mr. Cree had one little peculiarity—he would not reveal his age, at least not to the Association fraternity. It was said that among the thousands of secretarial names in John Glover's "doomsday book," his record was the

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only one not containing the year of birth. On one of the trips across the Atlantic, when a score or two of Association men sailed from New York, it was determined to find out Cree's secret. As the passengers filed past the purser's window to register, two men selected for the purpose fell into the line next him, one before and one after—I think that these were George Hall and E. F. See. Of course they were on the alert to catch Cree's answer; but what was their discomfiture when, quick as a flash and with perfect sang-froid, Tom sang out, "Thirty-six." But the matter was not allowed to drop there; a mock court was organized, Cree was put under arrest, witnesses were summoned and a trial held, the culprit doubtless being charged with sailing under false pretenses. Those who were present tell a most interesting story, and if the proceedings could have been stenographically reported, we should have had preserved a rare comedy, a sketch of Association humor at its best.

Mr. Cree was a true gentleman, uniformly kind and courteous. He is said to have been something of a beau in early life; certainly he had never lost the art of politeness, and of consideration for the gentler sex, no matter what their relationships, something that cannot always be said of office men. He was

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wonderfully unselfish, ever careful of the feelings and comfort of others, always ready to say a kind word or to do a kind act. Once when the writer was laid up in the hospital for a month, at quite a distance from the office, Mr. Cree was one of the two or three who journeyed to visit him; and it is doubtful if ever during the twenty years of my office life I was detained any number of days from my desk that he did not call. And surely I was not an exception. He was early and late at his work, his pen was always busy, and yet he was ready on short notice to go or to do for others.

He had that rare gift, so lacking in many of us, of easily and naturally introducing personal religious conversation. He especially followed out George Williams's plan of acting "in the sphere of one's daily calling." It is doubtful if there were an office boy, an elevator man, a hack driver, or anyone with whom he came into daily contact who failed to receive his kindly interest and to be spoken to regarding religious things. He sowed by the side of all waters where either business or pleasure took him, and was instant at least in season.

Mr. Cree's exercise in New York was taken chiefly with his bicycle, of which he was very fond and which he used daily whenever prac-

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ticable; he rose early, in winter often before it was fairly light, and would take long spins on his wheel before breakfast. Many men decades younger than he would have thought such a thing impossible. No doubt his life was lengthened many a year by his strict observance of this and other hygienic habits.

For a number of years during his later life he had been in the habit of taking trips to the Bermudas, or some part of the West Indies, in order to escape our severe February and March weather, which was very trying to his health. Often he would take his business with him, conducting correspondence personally or through his assistant at the office. Seldom was he thus away without remembering his fellow secretaries, and his letters, possibly only scraps enclosed to one or more of us in a business letter, were always bright and newsy. My last letter from Mr. Cree was written from Chambersburg, dated only about three months before he passed away. It is so characteristic that it is inserted:

Chambersburg, Pa., August 31, 1912.

My dear Ninde:

I note in *Men* that you are relegated to Rome. I have often said to you, I wished it could be worked out so that you and Mrs. Ninde could have the

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privilege of home life here, as I know you will some day have in Heaven—for the Master said, “I go to prepare a place for you,” and I am sure your home and that of your wife will not be a hundred miles apart. I wish you much comfort and happiness among the friends with whom you started Association work so many years ago. Those were the days of small things. However, I remember I had a great spiritual blessing in Rome—not over the sea but in your Rome. It was either the time Uhl, Taggart and myself visited there, or later when George Hall and I were there; most likely it was the latter. It influenced my spiritual life in a marked way.

I shall miss you when I drop into the office and see some boy in knickerbockers occupying your desk. With many kind wishes,

Truly yours,

THOMAS K. CREE.

Probably very few even of Mr. Cree’s intimate friends had any knowledge as to the extent of his civic activities. He had very high ideals of the duties of the private citizen, and he did his best to attain them. During his entire political life he was an advocate of the principles of the Republican party, although he was independent when he thought those principles were not being carried out by the party. He was most conscientious in regard to the exercise of his franchise, and in endeav-

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oring to get others to be the same. He was a strenuous opponent of "graft," and much of his activity was in striving to eliminate it from both local and national politics. Those familiar with him during his later years and knowing his acute civic consciousness, his alertness and persistency, do not wonder that as secretary of the Indian Commission he was a constant annoyance and menace to the graft-loving politicians, both in and outside of government circles. Becoming a citizen of New York, he took a like interest in municipal affairs. He studied the laws, and knew no reason why a good law should not be enforced. During his residence here of nearly thirty years he found a field which gave him great opportunities for his abilities in this line. Some of his most persistent work was done in attempting to enforce the provisions of the excise law in New York in the immediate vicinity of his home. He did not go out of his way to "find trouble"—and it was not necessary in his case; there was enough to keep his hands full in attempting to prevent violations occurring in his own neighborhood, which came to his notice while going to and from the office or his church. He was well known to officialdom, and it was evidently considered poor policy to ignore his complaints—it was known

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that they would be persistently followed up. Were there more T. K. Crees in our communities there would be fewer unsolved problems in our civic life.

Mr. Cree was not a politician in the narrower or partisan sense of the word. Except for the time spent as secretary of the Indian Commission, he did not occupy a government or municipal office, and he did not seek to do so. His political work was done without expectation or even thought of remuneration, but solely with a view to the improvement of conditions of life in the community, and the purification of the government.

The wide scope of his interests in regard to the work of political, civic and moral reform is shown by his correspondence with public and private citizens concerning them, a list covering nearly one hundred different subjects being made up from his papers, and this is doubtless incomplete. The letters concern not only local municipal politics, but county, state and national affairs; they range from those to police captains of the precincts in which he lived in New York to those to and from the President of the United States, and relate to many and varied subjects of governmental policy.

One may wonder how this man found the time

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amid his other duties—and they were for most of his life absorbing, and he was most conscientious in their performance—for these other interests of which his letters bear such abundant proof. But he had the genius for hard work and his brain was keen, active and observing; and a man of that character has few limitations when he sets out to accomplish a task.

Mr. Cree was an ideal office man. He was seldom absent from his desk during work hours, and the scratch of his pen or his low voice in dictation were all but continuous—with him the machine supplemented but did not supplant the pen. He came and went as quietly as he worked; he was sociable but never garrulous; he was never loud or contentious, although pronounced and unyielding in his convictions. He was ever ready to give a reason for the hope that was in him, and he looked askance at some of the modern ideas of biblical interpretation—he thought the old wine better. In Association matters he was well abreast of the times; he was loyal to the core, and had a sublime faith in the future of the movement.

But the long and busy life is ended; the pen has dropped from the tired fingers; the last letter is written. He fought a good fight. He

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kept the faith. A sheaf of wheat fully ripe,
God gathered him in. Verily, he rests from
his labors.

“ He does well who does his best;
Is he weary? Let him rest.
Brothers, I have done my best;
I am weary, let me rest.”

“ Say not ‘ Good night,’ but in some brighter
clime bid me ‘ Good morning!’ ”

